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50 hurt in day-long fighting

Three feared dead in riot at blazing jail

By Ronald Faux and Peter Davenport

A BLACK pall of smoke hung over Strangeways Prison in Manchester last night as riot police and prison staff fought to regain control from rioting prisoners amid reports that at least three inmates had died in the violence.

Although the Home Office could not confirm the deaths, sources in the emergency services said bodies had been found inside the burnt-out building where at least 50 prisoners and prison officers were injured, some of them severely, during the day-long riot.

Supt Barry Owen, of Greater Manchester Police, said last night that about 50 inmates and prison staff had been injured in the rioting which had caused extensive damage.

He said talks were being held with prisoners but refused to disclose their nature.

Dozens of prisoners were still on the roof last night, eight hours after the disturbances began, occasionally demanding through a loud-hailer for the media to be allowed inside the jail to hear their grievances. Mr Owen said most of prisoners were now "peaceful".

Firemen were protected by riot police from prisoners hurling missiles as they fought a blaze in the centre of the building. Flames 30ft high threatened to engulf the prison's gymnasium block, chapel and remand centre. A fire officer said damage had been

caused by at least four fires. The prison was sealed by police after hundreds of prisoners moved on to the roof and set fire to several parts of the building.

North Manchester General Hospital, the first call hospital in a big emergency, said eight prison officers and 20 prisoners had been admitted; several had serious injuries. Other casualties were taken to Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Mr Ian Fowler, spokesman for North Manchester, said those receiving treatment included a number of drugs overdose cases and several with serious head injuries consistent with having been hit by missiles.

At one stage 1,000 prisoners were reported to be loose within the prison building. Roofs were stripped and tiles, chimneys and lintels hurled into the yard below.

A prisoner with a loud-hailer shouted: "Stop brutality. We are having no more. You don't live behind here."

"We are not animals, we are human beings. Maybe we have made mistakes but everybody makes mistakes."

The trouble appeared to be carefully organized. As 300 inmates attacked prison officers in the chapel, four or five fires were started in cells and in the prison gymnasium.

Ambulances and fire engines lined the high walls of the prison, along with police officers.

A mobile police communication centre was set up in Charter Street near the prison entrance and officers with riot shields and helmets stood by as the prisoners threw missiles.

About 40 firemen went into the prison and casualties were seen being carried out on stretchers during the afternoon.

There were reports that some of the casualties were inmates serving sentences for sexual offences and who had been attacked by other prisoners.

Strangeways was built in 1868 to house 970 prisoners. There are now more than 1,600 in the prison, 500 of them on remand, and some young offenders.

It is said to be one of the most overcrowded prisons in the country.

Mr Robert Litherland, Labour MP for Manchester Central, told reporters outside the prison that the Home Office

had been warned for a long time about what could happen in Strangeways because of the overcrowding.

"We have stressed to the Home Secretary that overpopulation and under-manning in this prison were the ingredients for disaster."

"A short time ago a senior prison officer at Strangeways told me that because of conditions they were frightened of losing the prison."

"He said, 'We are going to have prisoners coming through the walls'. Well, today they are coming through the roof."

The problem became particularly intense at weekends when fewer prison staff were on duty and inmates were often locked up for 23 hours a day. They were left, Mr Litherland said, in a Victorian cell which lacked integral sanitation.

Last week Judge Stephen Tumm, the chief inspector of prisons, praised the work of the governor and staff at Strangeways in improving conditions at the prison during the past two years.

He said that over the past three years the prison had emerged "from the doldrums". The management structure was effective and was beginning to produce a "reasonable regime" for inmates.

However, the prison was marred by some "awful buildings" and a lack of work and out-of-cell time for inmates. Staff were still struggling to ensure that prisoners spent an average of 11 hours out of their cells a week, Judge Tumm said.

Last week two prisoners climbed scaffolding used by decorators inside the prison and broke on to the roof in a protest about conditions.

The Home Office said that 500 inmates had surrendered yesterday evening but about 1,000 remained in the damaged building.

Seven hours after the riot began, prisoners were still clustered on the roof, throwing down debris including masonry and tiles.

The prison chapel where the riot began was severely damaged. The clock on the tower overlooking the main prison entrance was stopped at 11.04, the moment when the riot broke out.

More photographs, page 24
Analysis, page 24

Mugabe says he has one-party mandate

From Jan Raftis, Harare

PRESIDENT Mugabe of Zimbabwe declared yesterday that the results of elections last week, giving his ruling Zanu (PF) party 117 out of 120 seats in Parliament were "a mandate for a one-party state".

But his remarks were couched in cautious terms, and it appears unlikely that he will outlaw political opposition soon after the restoration of the Lancaster House Constitution expires on the tenth anniversary of independence on April 18. After that he will require only a two-thirds majority to abolish the clause in the Bill of Rights guaranteeing freedom of political association.

"We can take it as a

mandate," he said. "But if we want to delay it, we can do so. We can give the people another chance."

Voting was marked by apathy, in stark contrast to the big majorities for his party in the 1985 election, and Mr Mugabe appears aware of one of the main causes - the unpopularity of one-party rule.

He attacked reports of a voter stay-away as part of "the discreditable and dishonourable way the BBC has gone about our elections". He said: "The reality is that people accept our policies, pure and simple."

Mugabe victory, page 8
Leading article, page 13



Roof-top protest: Prisoners tearing up slates and hurling them from the chapel roof at Strangeways Prison yesterday

Waddington to face Labour anger at poll tax riot 'smear'

By Philip Webster and Stewart Tendler

MR David Waddington will today report to MPs on the London poll-tax riot amid all-party condemnation of the disturbances in which more than 330 police and 86 members of the public were injured and Labour anger at what it regards as a Government attempt to link the party with the rioting.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher voiced "absolute horror" at the violence, and Mr Neil Kinnock accused the rioters of "abusing the rights to protest in the most cowardly and vicious way". They were enemies of freedom, he said.

As shop-owners and street-cleaners cleared away the damage yesterday Scotland Yard said the main trouble had come from a group of 3,000 to 3,500 within an otherwise peaceful protest of 40,000. Militants, members of the Socialist Workers' Party and various anarchist groups were alleged to have been involved in the hard core of violence.

Senior officers defended the Yard's strategy in policing the demonstration, denying they

had ever lost control but underlining the ferocity of the attack on officers. There were 341 arrests and a team of detectives is investigating incidents including three arson attacks, looting and assault in the worst rioting central London for 20 years.

Officers yesterday described being trapped among seething crowds armed with scaffolding and bent on the destruction of anyone opposing them. Some of the worst confrontations took place after rioters were



Mr Waddington at the scene of the riot yesterday

thwarted in an attempt to smash barriers and storm the new security gates at the end of Downing Street.

The riot led to an intensification of the political battle over the poll tax. As ministers called on Mr Kinnock to withdraw the whip from MPs who are refusing to pay the poll tax, Labour leaders were furious at what they saw as the Government's attempt to smear the party and distract attention from Tory difficulties over the community charge.

"It is patently unacceptable, wrong and absurd to link either anarchists and criminal gangs operating at this demonstration with any part of the Labour Party or any individual within it," the party said.

The irritation is expected to spill over in the Commons today as the Home Secretary outlines the Government's response to the riot and the progress of the police inquiry. Mr Waddington, who was confronted by more protesters yesterday when he visited some of the areas worst hit by

the rioting, blamed the disorder on a relatively small number of thugs who deliberately set out to hijack the demonstration.

But he also said that hard-left Labour MPs who advocated non-payment of the poll tax had to share some of the blame as the rioters may have used the MPs' rhetoric to excuse their behaviour.

Mrs Thatcher, in a speech to

Continued on page 24, col 8
Riot analysis, pages 2, 3
Thin dividing line, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Patten signals blow to tax cut hopes

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

AN expensive rescue operation designed to ensure that community charge bills are cut next year could rule out reductions in income tax in the run-up to the general election, the Government acknowledged yesterday.

Senior ministers confirmed they are examining ways of guaranteeing that an extra cash injection into the community charge system next year of up to £4 billion is used by councils to reduce poll tax bills rather than to increase spending.

Ministers will consider whether new powers are needed to order councils to use the extra government grant to cut bills, or whether existing legislation allowing ministers to make specific grants direct to charge payers, as through the existing transitional relief scheme, will be sufficient.

The move is part of a fundamental review of the charge being led by Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, with the objective of putting proposals to a Cabinet committee in the next few months.

It was announced by Mrs Margaret Thatcher in her speech to the Conservative Central Council at Cheltenham on Saturday.

Describing some poll tax bills as "a scandal", the Prime Minister said that people "will not look in vain" for the Government and Parliament to protect them as community charge payers from "overpowering taxation".

Mr Patten confirmed the review, and its aim to cut bills, in an interview on the BBC television programme *On The Record* yesterday.

However, he said it was extremely difficult to see how there could be both significant cuts in the poll tax and big cuts in income tax between now and the next election.

Some ministers believe that the public spending targets for the next two years confirmed in the Budget are already unrealistic. Hopes of getting nearer the Government's stated target of a 20p basic rate of income tax are disappearing fast, according to ministers.

Meanwhile the Labour Party claimed yesterday - as the community charge became law in England and Wales - that between 26 million and 28 million people would lose out under the poll tax.

Grass roots faithful, page 6
Letters, page 13

More troops sent to Vilnius

Soviet troops, believed to amount to a motorized infantry battalion, were sent to reinforce the garrison in Vilnius yesterday. Speculation grew that "President's rule" may shortly be imposed on Lithuania by the Army.

In Moscow President Gorbachev increased the pressure on Lithuania to revoke its declaration of independence, warning the republic of "grave consequences". Page 9

UK conciliatory

European finance ministers, meeting at Ashford Castle, Co Mayo, at the weekend, detected a more conciliatory approach from Britain towards economic and monetary union. Page 25

Villa beaten

Aston Villa lost a chance to go three points clear at the top of the first division when they were beaten 2-1 at home by Manchester City. Page 42

England chase

England were 49 for one in their second innings in the final session of the three-day match against Barbados. The home side declared at 225 for five, a lead of 434. Page 42



Profiles of the five finalists in the £5,000 Environment Award jointly sponsored by The Times and BBC Radio Four's PM will be published and broadcast each day this week, beginning today. Page 16

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All the jokes fit to print now that April's here

By Libby Jukes

JOURNALISTS are frequently accused of being neurotic about the truth, but April 1 is one occasion when they can legitimately make up stories. This year, however, it was by no means easy to distinguish between the April Fools and some of the other reports carried by the Sunday newspapers.

Proving that the truth is often stranger than fiction, *The Sunday Telegraph* quite correctly reported that pilgrims are flocking to a network of homes in the Midlands where Muslim housewives have found coded messages from Allah in the seeds of aniseed.

Strange, but true as the story about the miracle vegetables, was a report by the paper's environment correspondent that a Leicester firm has

developed an electronic mole scarer to capitalize on the reluctance of conservation-minded gardeners to use strychnine and other more final methods of mole control.

Among the "genuine" hoaxes, *The Guardian* staged the most elaborate and successful of all, fooling even the trade press with advance publicity for a new supplement to the Saturday paper, *The Guardian for Sunday*. The pilot edition which appeared on March 31, ahead of the "real" launch scheduled for September, included an article on the "Relative Values" of television presenter Bamber Gascoigne and "his son, Paul, Spurs player", and an obituary for Lorraine d'Alsace, the Dowager Lady Huntingdon-Huntingbird.

There was also a leading article disclosing that the entire project - "the most radical innovation in

British journalism for a decade... the paper they'll still be talking about on Monday" - was doomed at birth. Its staff will no doubt be returning to regular jobs on *Weekend Guardian*.

The Independent on Sunday reported that the controversy aroused in the international art world by the restoration of Michelangelo's ceiling in the Sistine Chapel, was nothing compared with the fury about to be unleashed by the rehanging today of the world's best-loved painting, minus its most famous attribute.

The newspaper claimed that the Mona Lisa was about to be returned to public view in the Louvre after extensive cleaning, during which the sitter's enigmatic half-smile was replaced with a more "authentic" scowl. The report included a close-up photograph of the new expression, said to have wiped the smiles off the

faces of museum staff. It did not neglect to mention, however, that several experts were "unaware yesterday of the restoration being contemplated, let alone carried out".

The News of the World claimed that "Eurotunnel experts have owned up to an incredible £4 billion blunder - the French and English sides will NOT meet in the middle". Apparently completion would be delayed because French engineers insisted on using metric specifications.

The foreign press also enjoyed a short silly season. The newspaper of the Soviet Communist Youth organization, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, reported that the United Nations had made overtures to the Soviet Government about buying Nikita Khrushchev's shoe, which he rapped on a UN desk as he warned the United States in 1961 "We will bury you."

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A surrounded policeman loses his helmet during the protest in London on Saturday

Officers tell of moments they feared for their lives

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

A POLICE officer yesterday described the moment he and his colleagues realized their van had been deliberately immobilized in the centre of a mob in Trafalgar Square on Saturday. All they could do was keep the doors locked as blows rained on the vehicle.

At one point a piece of scaffolding was thrust into the van missing the radio operator and piercing the roof.

The story emerged yesterday as officers described their experiences; several thought the police had lost control as they faced waves of violence and abuse.

Standing beside the Ford Transit van, PC David Nield, aged 24, said: "We realized we could not go backwards or forwards. Crowd barriers had been placed under the wheels by the crowd. I was very, very scared."

PC Nield had been called to the demonstration with a specialist riot group. The seven men in the van joined other units in Trafalgar

Square and went to the assistance of a WPC.

"We realized as we got into it, it was out of control," PC Nield said. "We just closed the doors and hung on."

The vehicle bore testimony to the attack; the radiator grill had almost been twisted off, every window was fractured and the bodywork pitted.

Sergeant Paul Irvine, aged 32, in charge of the unit, said the attackers were like "baying hounds". "They were out for blood. It was very frightening being inside and not being able to get out," he said.

The van escaped after the driver managed to manoeuvre backwards and forwards and get free of the barriers.

WPC Fiona Roberts, aged 30, had been in Whitehall near Downing Street at the height of the violence. She was detained in hospital overnight after she was hit by a piece of scaffolding, collapsed and temporarily lost the sight of one eye. As the violence in Whitehall heightened she real-

ized her colleagues were outnumbered. "The crowd was becoming very abusive, shouting, swearing."

Coins, marbles and metal flew through the air; she was hit on the head but did not realize what had happened until a colleague told her she had been struck by a scaffolding pole.

"In England you just do not expect people to be so vicious, violent against the ordinary police officer," she said.

Sergeant James Miller and PC Robert Huntley of the Transport Police were trapped by the crowd and their Peugeot car was smashed.

PC Huntley, who suffered cuts to his face, said: "A piece of scaffolding came through the window and a no-entry sign was thrown at the car."

Sergeant Miller said: "This is one of those incidents that happen and God was on our side. If we had radioed for help it would have been a waste of time; no one could have got to us."



A photograph through a wide-angle lens shows running riot police attempting to break up the crowd in Trafalgar Square on Saturday

Anarchist tactics mirror earlier confrontations

By Jamie Dettmer

THE incidents which sparked the initial clashes between police and demonstrators at Saturday's march were remarkably similar to those which led to a riot at a miners' demonstration in the capital five years ago.

Some police officers suspect that the leaders of the 200-strong group which staged the sit-down outside Downing Street at the weekend, leading to the first confrontations with police, had the miners' march of February 1985 in mind. Then, more than a hundred people were arrested.

It is generally recognized by police that it was the sit-down in Whitehall, combined with missile-throwing on the south side of Trafalgar Square, that triggered Saturday's riot.

In February 1985, a relatively peaceful miners' demonstration was taken over in exactly the same way, Nottinghamshire miners, with the support of members of the Socialist Workers' Party, sat down between Downing Street and the Ministry of Defence building after several of their number were arrested.

Anarchists from the Class War, Crowbar and Spartacus groups took this as a signal to send a fusillade of stones, bottles and sticks at police ranks, again on the south side of Trafalgar Square.

Reports from witnesses on Saturday, including one from Mr George Galloway, Labour MP for Glasgow Hillhead, suggested the sit-down brigade in Downing Street consisted mainly of anarchists and SWP

members. Mr Galloway said it had been started by "a couple of hundred anarchists".

Other reports confirmed the presence of members of Class War and assorted anarchist groups. Black anarchist flags were on view. Anarchist papers and magazines were on sale, including *Class War*, *Black Flag* and *Organise!*

Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Meynell, the officer in charge of the police operation, acknowledged the orchestrated nature of the initial incidents. He said: "There were certainly some concerted assaults. As the march was going past Downing Street, certain people were stopping. There was some planning there, obviously."

One self-proclaimed Class War member was quoted as saying: "I'm from Class War and I don't care if I get arrested. I just want hospital beds to be filled with the pigs."

The scale and viciousness of extreme left-wing and anarchist violence towards the police was predictable. It was forecast early last month by *The Times*, which reported that headline anarchist groups, veterans of some of the most violent industrial disputes in the 1980s, were planning to exploit the agitation against the community charge.

In the weeks leading up to Saturday's march, anarchist publications urged their supporters to prepare for "bash the police" mayhem. Class War made a statement declaring "full support" for violence in protests against the poll tax.

"You ain't seen nothing yet," the group boasted after the riots last month in Hackney and Brixton.

Autognome, an anarchist publication based in Raiton Road, Brixton, called on its supporters to attend Saturday's march. It said: "Let's make sure it's not another boring waddle, bleating (sic) a load of lefty slogans. They don't march like that in Romania." It also printed a list of computer firms which have done work for council community charge departments.

Other anarchist groups, like the Anarchist Communist Federation, told its supporters to capture the anti-poll tax agitation from Militant, which controls the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation, organizers of the demonstration.

The Hurricane anarchist group of London reissued a 32-page manual, *Written in Flames*, which provides advice on evading police forensic methods and details ways of sabotaging police tactics.

A knowledge of these was displayed on Saturday. The police tactic of trying to split up a riotous mob of thousands into groups of hundreds seemed to be undermined for two or three hours. Groups of rioters kept re-forming.

The hard core of three or four thousand rioters also kept moving, using sidestreets to shift the centre of action. This approach was used at Brixton last month and by Class War at clashes during the Wapping print dispute in 1986.

While the anarchist groups

tend to employ quick-moving tactics and like to concentrate on smashing property and cars, the SWP usually keep together and slog it out with police. This was visible on Saturday. Before the march, the SWP had said that two-thirds of its membership of about 5,000 would be in attendance.

The role of Militant in the initial clashes is more debatable. Mr Tommy Sheridan and Mr Steve Nally, Militant members and leaders of the Anti-Poll Tax Federation, condemned the violence. But accounts by witnesses spoke of Militant involvement in the fighting.

The SWP and the Revolutionary Communist Party, like the anarchists, have clearly had their noses put out of joint over Militant's success with the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation.

Before Militant muscled in on the agitation and built up the federation, SWP and RCP were the leading groups in a fledgling non-payment campaign. RCP set up a Smash the Poll Tax Campaign, but soon realized that it could not compete with the larger and better organized Militant.

The rivalry between Militant and the SWP and RCP is based partly on ideology. Unlike the other two groups, Militant is more concerned to use the agitation to facilitate a wave of Trotskyite entries to the Labour Party. SWP and RCP gave this up a long time ago and are eager to build up a mass socialist rival to Labour.

Sustained and savage violence by a minority

By Our Crime Correspondent

A MOB of rioters fighting police in Whitehall attempted to breach barriers and storm Downing Street, the senior Scotland Yard officer in charge of policing the poll tax demonstration said yesterday.

Thwarted by police, the rioters resorted to a vicious barrage of missiles against officers who were unprotected and without shields or riot helmets.

As detectives began investigating at least 200 reported crimes, ranging from assault to arson, Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Meynell, in charge of policing central London, said a peaceful large-scale protest of 40,000 had been subverted by 3,000 to 3,500 people.

"It was to be a fairly large-scale but peaceful demonstration by people from all over the United Kingdom. The majority were well behaved and came and went peacefully. There was a minority who decided they would use this to further their own special causes," he said.

"I have never seen such sustained and savage violence used directly against the police. It was simply brutal assault," Mr Meynell said. Innocent people had been used as cover.

"I think yesterday you saw a touch of anarchy coming to London. There were some anarchists there and other extremist fringe elements. Drink had also been to blame."

Asked if there was evidence of planning among the rioters, Mr Meynell said that, outside Downing Street, the initial trouble-spot, there had been "a mutual recognition of kindred spirits". "Whether you could put a definite plan to that... certainly people stopping were catalysts."

Police intelligence assessments of the event gave officers no inkling of the scale of the violence that exploded and led to 341 arrests and, according to Scotland Yard last night, injuries to 331 police and 86 members of the public. Sixty-eight people are scheduled to appear in court today and others are bailed to appear later. Charges include burglary, theft, looting and assault.

Mr Meynell defended the policing strategy. Scotland Yard had fielded a total of 2,500 officers, one of the largest contingents deployed for a demonstration in London for some years, to control the protest and the ensuing riot.

Mr Meynell said there were enough officers and reputations from some of his junior officers who were on the streets during the riot that, at times, the police lost control of the situation.

He denied any suggestion of over-reaction by police. Mounted police were not put on the streets until an hour after the violence began.

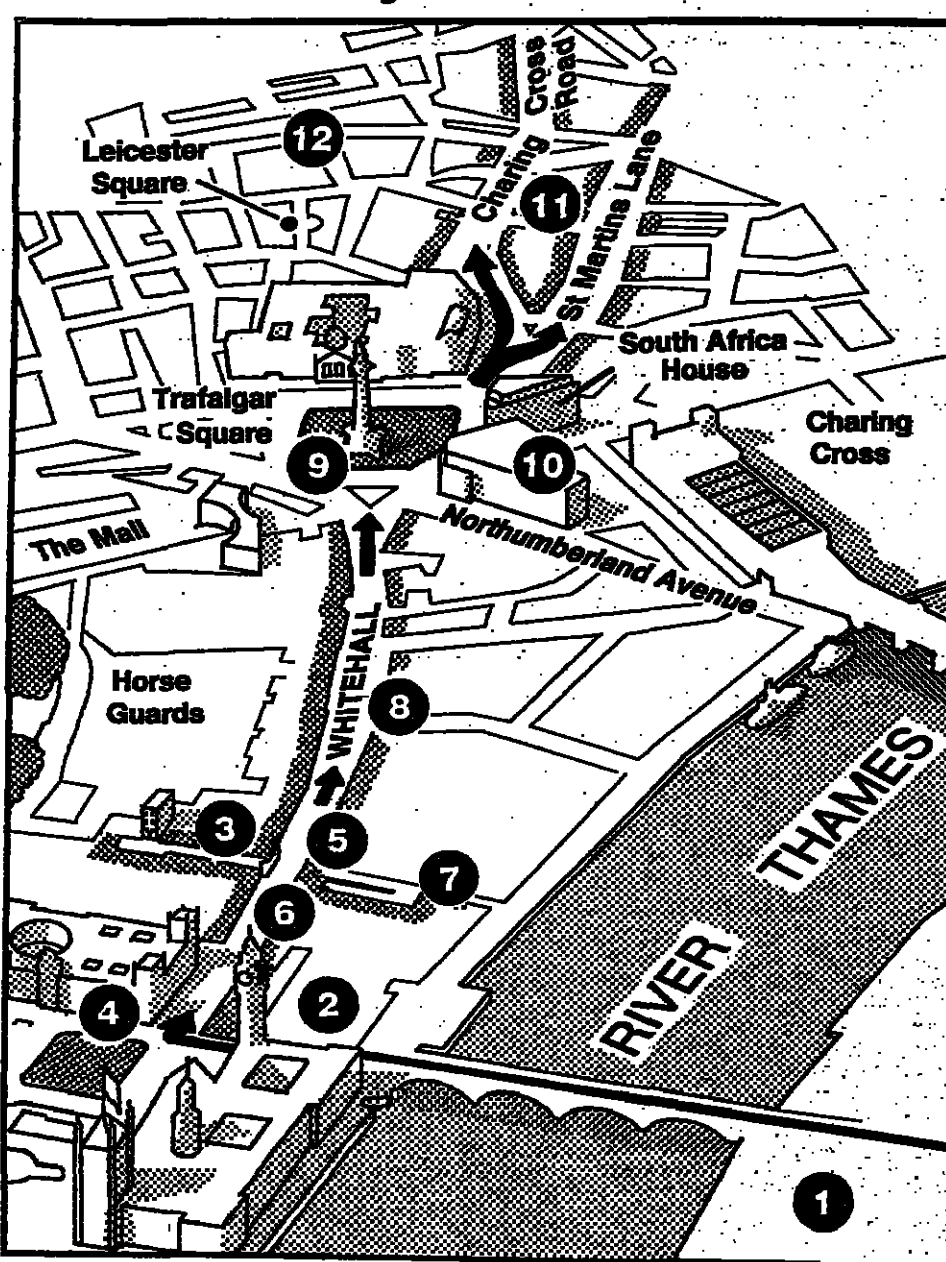
Describing events on Saturday, Mr Meynell said that at the beginning of the march, one group had assembled away from the throng after apparently failing to gain control of the head of the march.

The trouble in Whitehall was created by a hard core and the rest were diverted eventually. Mounted officers were sent into Whitehall after an hour of missile throwing.

Once Whitehall was cleared, officers were withdrawn. The small cordon left behind was then charged by rioters, who had regrouped. There were three cases of arson.

Timetable for a day of lawlessness

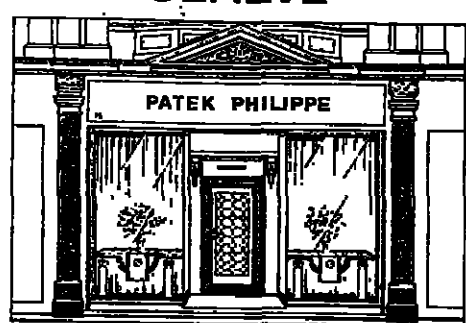
- 1 (1.15pm): The march of 35,000 anti-poll tax protesters sets off in a carnival atmosphere from Kennington Park, south London.
- 2 (2.15): As the first marchers approach Parliament, a handful of missiles are thrown but police take no action.
- 3 (2.30): First sign of trouble as vanguard of demonstration stops moving in Whitehall opposite Downing Street. Barriers are pushed down outside Parliament and two smoke bombs set off; tail of march has still not left Kennington.
- 4 (2.45): More missiles are thrown in Parliament Square.
- 5 (3.00): Demonstrators in Whitehall bombard police with missiles near Downing Street but some marchers continue to move towards Trafalgar Square, where the MPs Mr Tony Benn and Mr George Galloway are addressing a peaceful crowd.
- 6 (3.15): Intensified trouble in Whitehall.
- 7 (3.30): Police decide to divert rest of march away from Whitehall along Embankment. Mounted police go in through Richmond Terrace to divide crowd, sending some south and others north to Trafalgar Square.
- 8 (4.00): Unprotected police, facing hail of missiles, try to clear Whitehall. Some protesters start breaking away from the rally and going home as lawlessness takes hold.
- 9 (4.25): In response to worsening situation, police are issued with short shields and protective clothing. In Trafalgar Square rally officially ends. Barrage of missiles rains down on police from a building site on south of square.
- 10 (4.45): Serious trouble in the south-east corner of square, where an office block has been set alight. Other rioters smash windows of South Africa House and attempt to set fire to it.
- 11 (7.00): Mounted police



supported by police in riot gear clear Trafalgar Square driving lawless hordes along Charing Cross Road and St Martin's Lane. Plate glass windows of shops and banks are smashed, and diners showered with glass in restaurants. Shops are looted and cars overturned and set alight. 12 (8.00 onwards): Police in riot gear clear pockets of resistance as destruction and looting persist. Scuffles between police and rioters continue until 3am. Casualty wards of local hospitals filled with police and civilians.



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looted &
burnt
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Scuffles ma
tour of dev

12 arrests
near Tor
conference

Looted shops and burnt out cars horrify tourists

By Harvey Elliott and Robin Young

LONDON'S image as a safe and pleasant city was damaged by the riots which caught thousands of innocent tourists unawares.

As telephone calls were made to homes from Tokyo to New York telling relatives of the horror that erupted on the quiet, sunny Saturday afternoon, news agencies were pouring out details of the devastation in the fashionable West End and those tourists brave enough to venture back out on to the streets eagerly took photographs of burnt out cars and looted shops — pictures which would blacken Britain's name around the world.

Mr Harold Eaton, of St Louis, Missouri, summed up the general impression among innocents caught in the frenzy. "We are supposed to be the violent ones in the US. I am surprised that something like this could happen in what is such a civilized place."

It was not just the foreign visitors who were caught in the violence which exploded so suddenly. One terrified youth aged 17 described how he was pushed into a broken shop window by charging riot police.

The injured schoolboy, who was not a demonstrator but was visiting London to see a football match, had tried desperately to flee the scene as he saw crowds of protesters running towards him in Charing Cross Road.

Spencer Hockley, from Brighton, had come to the capital for the Millwall v Crystal Palace match and was on his way home when he got caught up in the melee.

"After the football match I walked to Charing Cross but it was closed, so I started to walk to Piccadilly station," he said. "But as I was walking along Charing Cross Road, I saw a load of people running towards me."

"They were smashing windows of shops and restaurants,

and others were just looting from the places."

"I had no choice but to run with the crowd. I must have either tripped or been pushed to the ground, and as I tried to get up I was shoved out of the way by police."

"I fell through a plate glass window and went smashing into the shop. There was blood gushing from my hand and it just wouldn't stop."

The main trouble erupted just as shops were closing for the afternoon and tourists and visitors were strolling back towards their hotels to freshen up before an evening at a restaurant or theatre.

The windows of a showroom full of new cars were smashed and all the vehicles inside were severely damaged.

Mr Jim Lincen, sales manager, said the sight of the destruction hit him like a hammer blow. "I was physically ill," he estimated the damage to the showroom at about £120,000.

In the next street, a tailor's shop was used as a refuge by more than 60 frightened bystanders. "It was terrifying. We just had to stay in the shop with the door locked," Mr David Brooks, an eyewitness, said. "Our main object was to get the women and children inside."

Outside was the shop owner's car, smashed and burned. "They got a lighter and a rag and threw it under the petrol tank," Mr Brooks said. He said he had seen people offering money to young men in a bar to persuade them to join the violence. "There was a group offering £20 to sign up," he said.

Mr Michael Theodorou, whose souvenir stall on the corner of the Strand and Trafalgar Square lay right in the path of the mob, said: "I have been here for 24 years and have seen many demonstrations, but never anything like this." Many of the victims were among Britain's

most exclusive retailers — Burberrys, Mappin and Webb, Aquascutum, the Scotch House and the Dickens and Jones department store. Garrards, the royal jewellers, lay in the path of the vandalism but appeared to have escaped substantial damage.

The trail of damage went on to Oxford Circus and finally ended along Oxford Street. Every window in one currency exchange unit was smashed.

A member of staff at Aquascutum said: "We tried to stop them looting the china shop, but our own windows were in and we were trying to clear stock away."

Mr Tony Wilson, aged 26, of Manchester, said: "I was just standing next to the National Gallery when a truck hit me in the eye. I was thrown on to my back. It was quite a shock. I couldn't get up, and a copper had to drag me to an ambulance."

He saw the cause of the trouble in a different light from most, however. "Once the trouble had started, I saw many people bashed over their head with truncheons and toppled backwards by police."

"They were lashing out at anybody, even women and children. Everything was fine while the demonstration was moving, but once police had blocked people into the square, that's when the trouble started."

"If you don't let people out then of course temperatures are going to rise. I can't believe how police can turn a peaceful demonstration into such bloodthirsty chaos."

He was supported by Miss Anna Goodhead, aged 18, from Bath, an A level student who had bruises across her forehead. She said: "Police were going mad. When they charged towards me everyone ran back. I was grabbed by one and thrown to the floor."

"Curled up in a little ball but one hit me with a

truncheon across the head and some kicked me.

"I usually stand up for the police; they are only human beings. But I heard some policeman say to protesters, 'Kick me, so I can hit you back'."

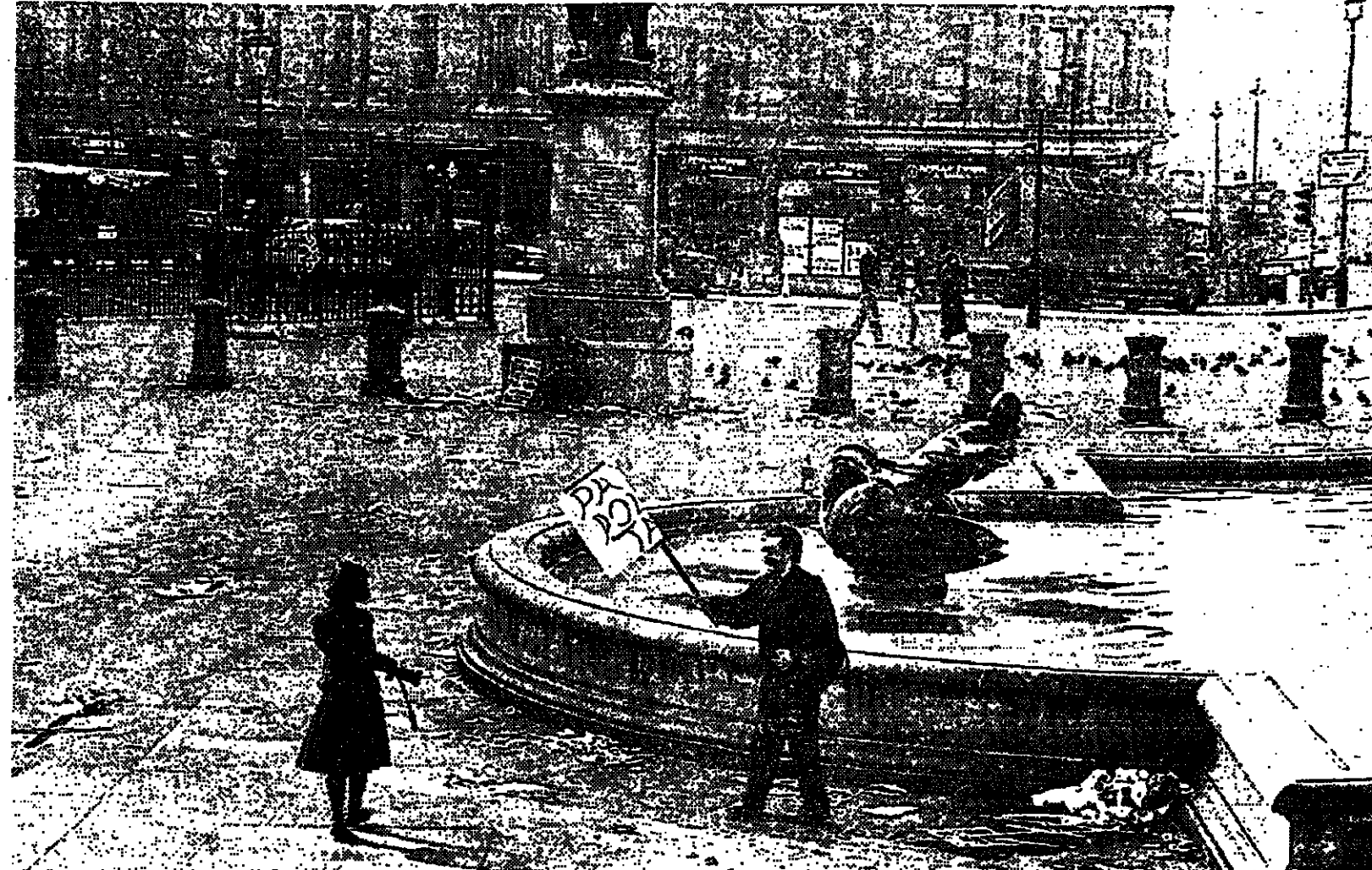
As reinforcements were called in by police, men and women had to leave their normal duties to report to the central area.

One police officer said: "I was having a good time at the boat race, then I got called out to this."

The ramifications of the riot spread out to the countryside too. One village cancelled a poll tax demonstration scheduled for yesterday morning and replaced it with a service instead.

Bishop's Green, near Greenham Common air base, had declared itself a poll tax free zone and most of the 570 inhabitants planned to burn their council forms on a bonfire yesterday morning.

Mr Ron Allan, the village postmaster, said: "We have called it off. We are not having our village green turned into a



Tourists taking photographs and picking up debris as souvenirs yesterday after the night of violence that swept Trafalgar Square

battlefield." In the morning he put up notices outside his village shop announcing the cancellation and sent young people round to spread the word.

A ray of hope that London can rebuild its tarnished image came from Mr Mark McNamara, an American tourist, who had watched amazed as dustbins were thrown through shop windows in front of him.

His mother Marilyn said that the rioting had not blunted her enthusiasm for London. "I still think it's a fantastic city," she said.

In yesterday's bright sunshine, London had some new tourist attractions. Leases of all nations focussed on the burnt out car outside the Albert Theatre, the comprehensively smashed Toyota in Cranbourn Street, the crazed and sagging windows of South Africa House and the charred remains of contractors' huts around the Grand Buildings office block at the Trafalgar Square end of the Strand.

A crashload of French tourists which had made a detour for a sightseeing cruise down St Martin's Lane, scene of some of the worst of Saturday evening's running battles, made a special stop for a photo opportunity at the Renault Covent Garden showrooms, where emergency boarding covered the damage rioters had caused to the cars.

"Gee, this is great," Mr Louis B. Zeiman from Phoenix, Arizona, said, pointing his camera on a ransacked branch of Tie Rack in Langham Place.

"I can tell the folks back home I came to Britain and saw a riot. We thought you simply didn't do that sort of thing."

Mr Zeiman said he and his wife had been intending to go to a theatre on Saturday night.

"What we saw in the streets was much more dramatic. We saved the price of the tickets, and no-one did us any harm," he said.

Miss Daisy Lu, from Hong Kong, was less delighted. "I do not like to see London such a mess," she said, as she watched shards of glass and wrecked litter bins being gathered in Regent Street.

"I thought it was a dirty, unpleasant place before. Now it looks horrible and feels unsafe."

She was impressed, though, that scrap merchants had been round attaching handwritten notices to cars wrecked in the violence, giving telephone numbers and offering cash down.

"I suppose that shows some sort of enterprise," Miss Lu said.

Mr Graham Stooke, from Liverpool, said he had been with his family at a cafe in the Charing Cross Road. "Someone ran in and said the demonstration was coming up the street, and windows were being smashed."

"A split second later a chunk of concrete and a piece of metal big enough to take off your head came smashing through the window. There was glass everywhere, and people screaming. We just left our burgers and ran."

A sharp sense of injustice was voiced by the owner of a restaurant in Cranbourn Street. "This was supposed to be a protest against the community charge, but we are already in danger of being closed by the uniform business rate, which will multiply our bill seven times."

"Small businesses in Westminster are among the worst hit of all. So we are protesting — and now we get smashed up by people who are no worse off than ourselves."

The total cost of damage was thought yesterday likely to exceed £1 million, though in many cases there was still doubt as to who would finally foot the bill.

Some shopowners said that they were hoping the Receiver of the Metropolitan Police District would not class the events as a riot, because if he did they would not be able claim on their insurance policies but must wait to be refunded by the Metropolitan Commissioner of Police from public funds.

There seems no room for doubt, though, that the Receiver's decision will be that what Mr Zeiman witnessed really was a riot.

Scuffles mark minister's tour of devastated area

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

MR David Waddington, the Home Secretary, yesterday visited the devastated area of London, marking the "incredible wickedness" of a relatively small number of demonstrators who had set out to cause trouble.

Mr Waddington almost became involved in ugly scuffles with protesters as he delivered his verdict during a visit to some of the worst scenes of disorder. Three men were arrested for alleged public order offences.

A group of youngsters began chanting anti-poll tax slogans as soon as Mr Waddington's Jaguar car pulled up outside the wrecked car showroom in St Martin's Lane near Leicester Square.

Tension rose as Mr Waddington, surrounded by a surprisingly small number of police and a scrum of journalists and television crews,

walked around the area. The doors of his car were kicked as he drove off.

The Home Secretary voiced shock at the scale of the destruction and sorrow for the number of police officers and innocent demonstrators who had been injured.

He suggested that the Government was unlikely to heed calls from some Tory MPs for curbs on rallies in central London.

Mr Waddington blamed a minority of protesters for the riot, but added that left-wing Labour MPs who advocated non-payment of the community charge had to share some responsibility.

He suggested that some of the protesters might have used the MPs' rhetoric to justify their excesses.

Asked what had caused the disorder, he replied: "Some-

times people talk about mindless violence, but this wasn't mindless. It was sheer wickedness."

Addressing reporters next to a burnt out Porsche car, he added: "I hope that politicians don't go round giving people the impression that it is right to defy the law and if you don't like a law you can just disobey it."

The minister began his ten-minute tour outside a Renault showroom on the corner of St Martin's Lane and Cranbourn Street, where rioters had smashed a plate-glass window and then systematically broken the windows of all the cars inside. One model worth £16,000 was completely wrecked.

The surrounding streets bore vivid signs of the largely indiscriminate vandalism inflicted during the riot.

Strategic tools in police armoury

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

POLICE video film of Saturday's events and the mass of orders and briefings which made up Scotland Yard's strategy for policing one of London's largest recent protests will soon be the focus of a post mortem examination by the Yard's commanders and riot specialists.

For public order experts are on a constant learning curve and the poll tax rally provided a fresh attempt to assess Scotland Yard's highly sophisticated public order machinery. In 10 years Scotland Yard has faced riots at Brixton, the Notting Hill Carnival, Southall, the Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham and at News International, Wapping, as well as creeping inner-city disorder.

The Broadwater Farm incident, which led to the death of Police Constable Keith Blakelock, resulted in an overhaul of public order policing which was baptized at Wapping, east London. This provoked a controversy that still echoes through the Yard. Earlier this year Scotland Yard's operation at News International was strongly criticized in a report by the Police Complaints Authority which challenged the system and the abilities of the Yard's officers.

Scotland Yard fielded 2,200 officers

on Saturday, drawing in another 300 as trouble developed. No other public order event, apart from the annual Notting Hill Carnival, has called for such police numbers for some years.

The police also covered six football matches on Saturday and 100 officers attended the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race crowds.

The police commitment to the demonstration was based on intelligence assessments. These would include reports from a unit within the Special Branch which deals with areas such as subversion. Officers also study recent protest meetings, leaflets and posters put out by extremist fringes.

Once that assessment is made, the Yard uses a strategy which nominates the top commander as Gold, his deputy as Silver, a third officer as Bronze and delegates other officers geographic responsibilities.

Under the 1986 Public Order Act, notice of events must be given to police by organizers and the police can set conditions such as the route of a march or even apply for an event to be banned.

Gold sets the tone for the policing

strategy. He has to decide how to balance public order against freedom of speech, set adequate police numbers which do not appear oppressive, and decide what specialist manpower is needed.

He would consider what sort of crowd might be expected. Would there, for example, be women, children, and pensioners? Would the route go through built-up areas? Should police in riot gear be seen waiting on the busy shopping streets of London's West End?

The armoury available to the senior officers ranges from tactical support groups — specially trained units totalling about 800 officers throughout London — and mounted officers to CS gas and plastic bullets. Units with gas and bullets would have been on standby on Saturday somewhere near the centre of London.

More than 300 officers were ready with riot equipment and nearly 50 mounted officers were on duty. Tactical support group officers were included.

Silver and Bronze handle the mechanics of the event, monitoring its progress using closed-circuit television on main roads as well as cameras in police helicopters and radio reports. Silver would decide whether to call in mounted officers or introduce full-scale riot policing.

AGENDA

The week ahead

Today

One of the most contentious cross-party issues returns to the Commons with the second reading of the Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill. MPs will be given a free vote on clauses to allow scientific experiments on embryos up to 14 days after fertilization, and to cut the time limit on abortions from 28 to 24 weeks. The MoD publishes its Defence Estimates white paper, likely to welcome changes in Eastern Europe but underline the importance of keeping up Britain's guard. The building of Portsmouth Cathedral resumes. 50 years after it was interrupted by the Second World War.

Tomorrow

As the anti-poll tax lobby descends on Parliament, Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, is expected to announce that he will charge-cap about 20 local authorities. Tory councils are unlikely to feature. President Venkatarman of India begins a state visit. The War Widows Association is in London for its AGM.

Wednesday

Mr Kenneth Baker, Conservative party chairman, launches the Tory campaign to win over the voters in next month's local government elections. With the examination season looming, a one-day strike takes members of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers out of the classroom. Female high-flyers head for the Institute of Directors for the Businesswoman of the Year award.

Thursday

The parliamentary term ends at Westminster and MPs retire until April 18. The Greens converge on Northampton for their spring conference. Memorabilia of the Russian royal family is up for auction at Sotheby's, with documents relating to the execution of the last tsar expected to fetch about £500,000.

Friday

Monmouth Tories decide whether to deselect their MP, Sir John Stradling Thomas. The conference season is now well under way. Ireland's governing Fianna Fail meets in Dublin. Members of the Secondary Heads Association spend their school holidays in Manchester, while writers, aspiring or published, meet at Southampton University.

Saturday

Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt address a public meeting in Middlesbrough on working practices in their profession. More than 100 vehicles set off from Marble Arch on the 9,200-mile London to Peking motor challenge. The initial stages, through London's traffic, will probably be the most demanding section. An Aintree should be a rather quicker start to the Grand National.

52 arrests near Tory conference

MORE than 50 people are to appear before magistrates in Cheltenham in the wake of Saturday's mob violence in the regency town.

Five police officers were hurt, although not seriously, in the trouble after the conclusion of the Conservative Central Council conference.

The Prime Minister had left the town when a group of about 200 people, mostly in their teens or early twenties, broke away from a rally by the Gloucestershire Anti Poll Tax Federation in a park about a mile away and converged on the conference centre at Cheltenham Town Hall.

Police were pelted with stones and cans as they struggled to prevent the mob from breaching the security screen round the town hall. A door was torn off a police van.

Fifty-two people were arrested for assaults on police and public order offences and taken to police stations in Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud. They were later released on bail to appear in court in May and June.

Inspector Michael Pennington said: "The official poll tax march and rally went off peacefully and we accept the organizers had no idea this was in store. We found lager cans and beer bottles in the gutters so you can draw your own conclusions."

The breakaway group was

How disorder has hardened over the years

By George Hill

AFTER the great Grosvenor Square riot of 1968, demonstrators and police sang a chorus of "Auld Lang Syne" together before dispersing.

The demonstration against the Vietnam war, which in alarmed contemporary eyes marked the high point of a "year of protest", ended in 42 arrests and about the same number of injured participants in five hours of uproar.

The British have learnt to take street disorder more seriously since then, on both sides of the barricades. After Saturday's far more destructive outbreaks in the West End, with 341 arrests, over 400 injuries, and systematic damage worth hundreds of thousands of pounds, many rioters could be seen taking the Underground home, with that same air of fulfilment after a job well done.

The songs they belted were nonsense jingles without a breath of politics in them. If there were deeply angry people among them nursing a heartfelt political grievance, they kept a low profile.

Street protest was a far less rough game 20 years ago. The participants tended to be middle-class young people motivated by rather abstract indignation over some relatively far-off issue, or persuaded that it was trendy to be so motivated.

In the 1960s and 1970s political extremists began to see how the herd instinct involved could be manipulated as a source of power in enclosed institutions like col-



Flashback to 1981: Police bearing the brunt of an attack in Liverpool, one of several cities hit by riots that year

leges. It was only seldom that clashes became as fierce as the Southall demonstration against the National Front in 1979, when Mr Blair Peach, the teacher, died of head injuries during a charge by riot police.

The industrial disputes of the 1970s helped to create a precedent for civil disorder as a means of bringing more direct political pressure. In the coal strike of 1972, the National Union of Mineworkers' flying pickets stopped the flow of coal from the Salford depot, ignoring the law, and forcing the Government into a humiliating capitulation.

Just 10 years ago a new element in street disorder emerged, in rioting in the St Paul's area of Bristol. That was the precursor of a dra-

matic outburst of rioting across the country the following year, in Brixton, Toxteth, Birmingham, Southall and Preston. Unemployment, deprivation and a sense of racial exclusion underlay these outbreaks.

Typically, a minor incident would provoke an outburst of long-nursed communal resentment. Although they caused huge damage to property (most often, ironically, property owned by members of ethnic minorities only a rung or two up the ladder from the rioters), the principal target of attack was usually the police.

In three nights of riots in Brixton, 149 police needed hospital treatment, and 224 arrests were made. In Lord Scarman's report on the disturbances, he said that with

one or two exceptions police had "acted wisely, coolly and with considerable restraint in a testing, dangerous and alarming situation".

He recommended a number of changes to reduce alienation between police and local communities, and the Government launched an initiative to build up economies of inner city areas.

As Mr Michael Heseltine, MP, said, "it took a riot" to draw national attention to the problems of the areas concerned. There were no more disturbances on a comparable scale in the inner cities until 1985, when recurrent outbreaks in Brixton were followed by the most violent clash of this kind to date, on the Broadwater Farm estate, Tottenham, in London. A policeman was murdered and

243 were injured. It was the first British city riot in which firearms are known to have been used.

The police said later that car parks in the estate had been flooded with petrol, apparently to trap them if they advanced. The riot led to a reappraisal of the night's tactics, in which officers had stood in defensive line behind their shields, while the rioters threw fire-bombs.

It was at the same period that industrial violence was reaching a climax. In the coal strike of 1984-5, the battles at the gates of collieries and coal depots were among the most serious episodes of civil disorder in Britain this century.

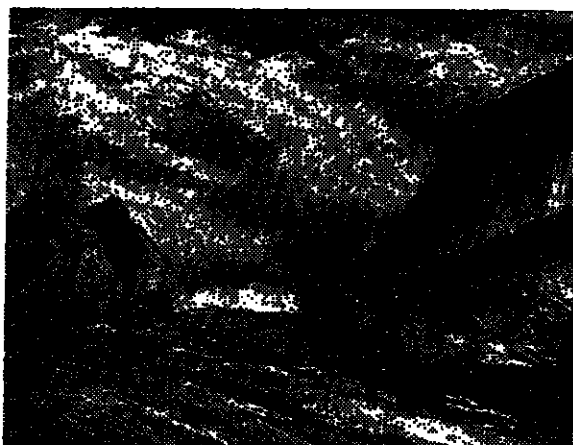
At the Orgreave coke store 6,000 miners and 3,300 police fought to control the flow of supplies: in one day alone,

Phillips announce their next sale of Impressionist and Modern paintings, drawings, watercolours and sculpture.

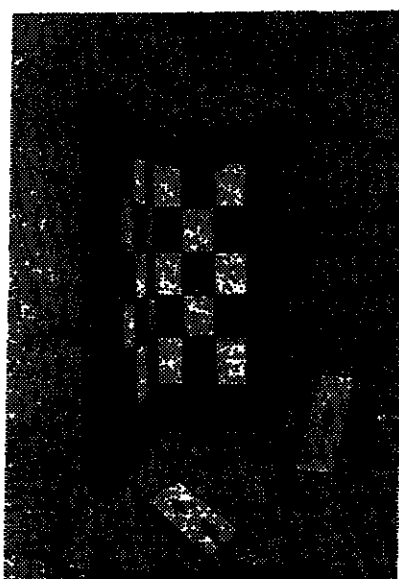
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La Sortie du Bain. Charcoal and pastel
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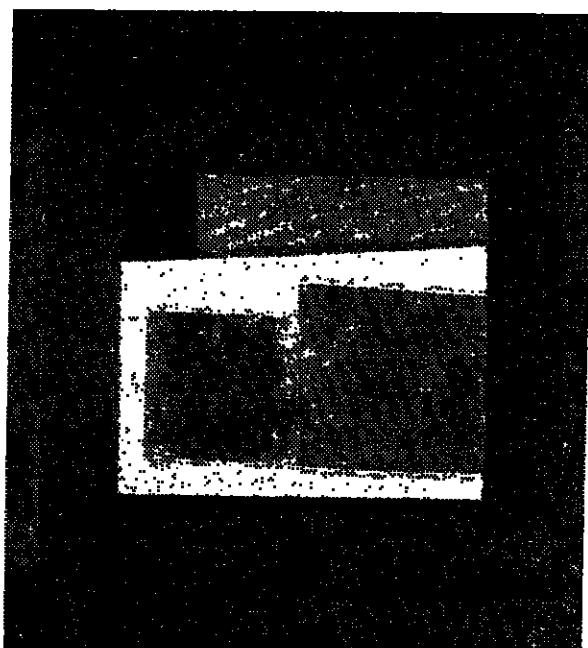
BERNARD BUFFET
Jeu de Cartes
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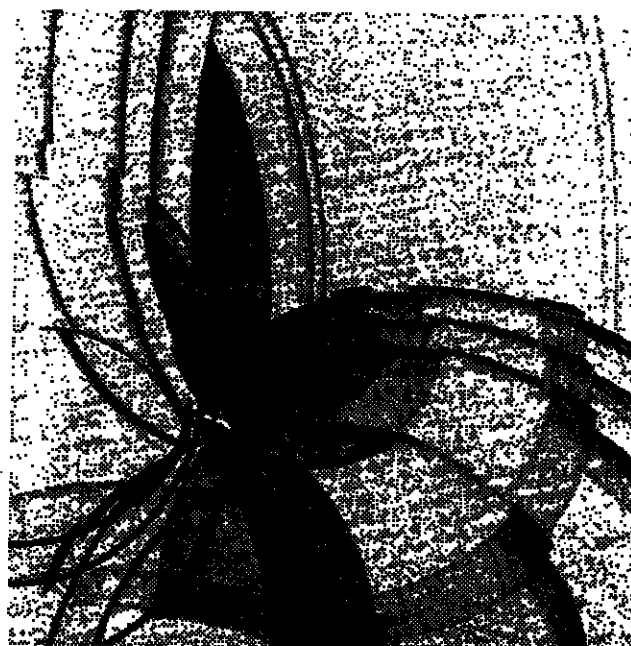
AUGUSTE RODIN
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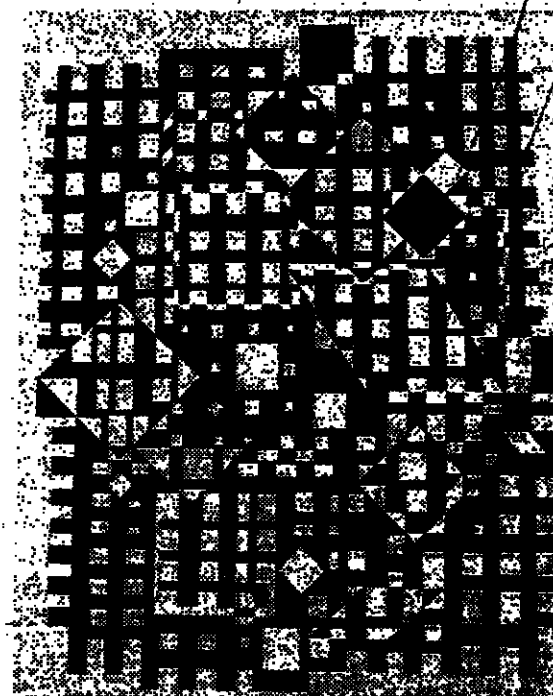
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MARIE LAURENCIN
Jenne Fille au Collier de Perles,
Une Fleur dans les Cheveux
£80,000-£100,000



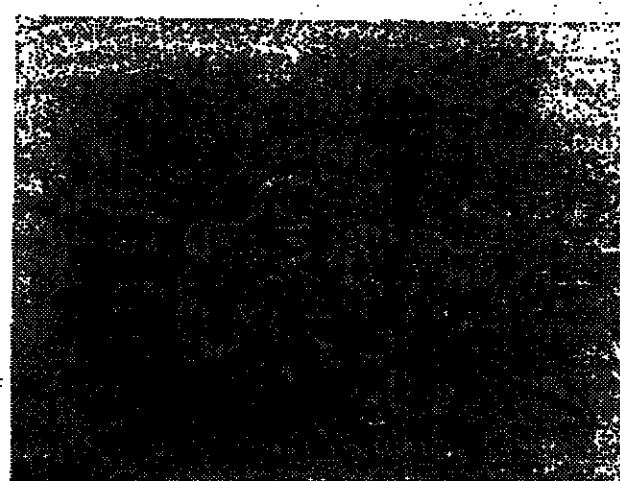
CAMILLE PISSARRO
Deux paysannes causant. Watercolour and pencil
£40,000-£45,000



PAUL GAUGUIN
Femme nue debout. Bronze
£30,000-£40,000



ANDRÉ DERAÏN
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Training
councils
need more
funds

By Tim Lown
Employment
Correspondent

It is a pity that the training councils are not better equipped to deal with the problems of the unemployed. The councils are not better equipped to deal with the problems of the unemployed.

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Mackay is ready to outlaw race bias by solicitors

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

THE Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, is expected to agree to an amendment to the Courts and Legal Services Bill which would outlaw racial discrimination against barristers by solicitors.

The Bar has been pressing for such discrimination — which can operate when solicitors allocate briefs — to be banned by law. At present it is covered by professional rules and as such dealt with as a disciplinary offence.

Mr Peter Cresswell, QC, the Bar chairman, says that black barristers are subject to racial discrimination from outside and inside the Bar.

"As a rule, white firms of solicitors do not send work to them, however well-equipped they may be to understand and serve the interests of the firm's clients."

The record of government institutions, such as the Crown Prosecution Service, the Home Office (for immigration cases) and the Customs and Excise for drugs prosecutions is also patchy, he says.

"Unequal opportunity at the start becomes more unequal if barristers do not

receive work they are qualified to do because of the colour of their skin."

The move comes at a time of a growing number of initiatives to stamp out racial discrimination in the legal profession.

Today the Society of Black Lawyers calls on the Government to put forward a "anti-racist strategy to eliminate discrimination from the criminal justice system."

In its response to the recent Home Office White Paper, *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public*, the 400-member society points out the huge disproportion in the percentage of blacks in custody.

Black prisoners represent a "staggering 20 per cent of the total remand population and only 4.4 per cent of the general population," it says.

Mr Peter Herbert, an executive member of the society, said: "In the general population black people are eight times as likely to be imprisoned as their white counterparts and 40 times as likely to be the subject of a racial attack."

But the White Paper "totally fails to deal with this fact

when discussing the issue of how to protect the public against crime," he said.

Black men represent 15.7 per cent of the male prison population and black women 24 per cent of the female prison population.

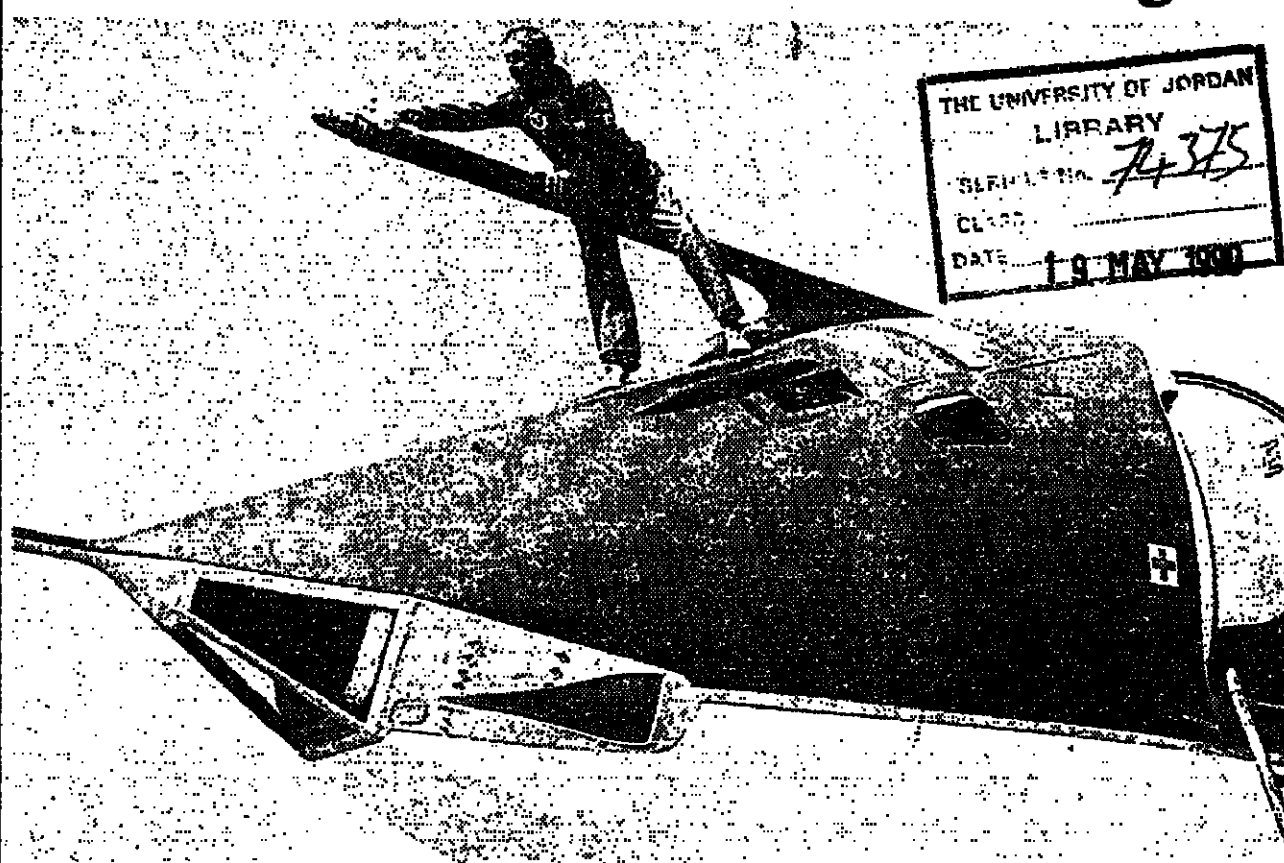
The figures have been steadily rising since 1985, when monitoring started, the society says. "Less than half the remands result in custody, and black defendants are twice as likely to be acquitted as their white counterparts."

It adds: "It is quite extraordinary that at a time when the black prison population is rising, there is no priority given to the elimination of racism from the criminal justice system."

Calling on the Government to take action to stamp out discrimination, the society says there must be full ethnic monitoring of the sentencing and bail process.

It also wants moves to include blacks in the training of the judiciary. The Judicial Studies Board, which supervises judicial training, contains "not a single black academic on its main board or four sub-committees," it says.

Restored V-bomber takes limelight



STANDING at the "rhino's pinnacle" of four years' restoration work, Mr Trevor Fish yesterday gave the refuelling probe of this Victor bomber a final polish.

The aircraft was wheeled into the sunshine at the Imperial Air Museum, Duxford, in Cambridgeshire, to display the hard work done by a dozen volunteers to return it to pristine condition (Harvey Elliott writes). It will, however, never fly again.

The bomber is one of the type which formed the mainstay of Britain's nuclear deterrent throughout the 1960s. Volun-

teers stripped Victor XH 648 and carefully prepared it as one of the main attractions at the museum.

The bomber was delivered to 57 Squadron at RAF Honington in 1959 as a Victor B1 to be armed with free-fall nuclear bombs if needed. It saw service with 15 Squadron, RAF Cottesmore, and 55 Squadron, RAF Honington, before being converted to a tanker in 1965, when it was based at RAF Marham.

The first Boeing 747 "jumbo" jet, made more than 21 years ago, is to be turned into a museum piece at the

Boeing headquarters, Seattle. Almost 800 747s have been produced and the latest version — the 400 series — although almost identical from the outside, is a completely different aircraft in the cabin and on the flight deck.

Royal Air Force flights used by thousands of service families each year to travel to and from foreign postings are to be revamped to bring them into line with the service on offer on commercial airlines. Passengers will be asked to complete a questionnaire to find out what they expect from their flights.

One in five prisoners is a fine defaulter

By Quentin Cowdry
Home Affairs Correspondent

ONE fifth of prison sentences are imposed for fine defaulting, a report published today says. It backs government plans to introduce means-related fines for many offences.

In 1988, the latest year for which figures are available, 16,817 defaulters were jailed, including 4,828 people originally charged with motoring offences and 811 offenders convicted of drunkenness, the report by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders says.

The association accepts that most sentences for fine defaulting are short and that defaulters represented just 1.5 per cent of the average jail population in 1988.

"Even a small proportion of defaulters can pose serious problems for a hard-pressed prison system. The work caused by over 16,000 receptions in terms of processing each offender is substantial, regardless of the prisoner's length of stay."

The association favours the introduction of a "unit fine" system under which fines would be calculated by multiplying a number of units representing the gravity of the offence by the weekly disposable income of the offender.

Training councils 'need more funds'

By Tim Jones
Employment Affairs Correspondent

AS it prepares this week to launch the first of 82 local, employer-led Training Enterprise Councils, the Government is today warning that the initiative, seen as vital to Britain's competitive future, must receive more funding if it is to succeed.

The Employment Institute, in a report planned to coincide with the launch, claims that without more funding many of the councils will flounder. "And one can be sure that the blame will be laid squarely at their door rather than that of their short-sighted and penny-pinching pay masters in Central Government."

The report echoes the doubts expressed last week by Mr John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, who claimed the councils could be "sifted at birth" because of cuts in budgets and infighting between Government departments.

He said: "We are witnessing infighting in Whitehall between the departments of employment and of trade and industry and the myopia of the Treasury, which is more concerned, it seems, with reducing public expenditure than in securing the nation's international competitive future."

Last week, it emerged that cuts of up to 22 per cent would be made to provide use of youth training, for which the councils would become responsible. In addition, the councils' budget, originally estimated at £3 billion, has been reduced to an estimated £2.4 billion.

The Employment Institute claims there must be substantial additional funding of public training programmes, in particular, a more than doubling of grants to Employment Training managers to reverse planned expenditure cuts.

A High Court decision ordering a former employee of Electronic Data Systems to pay back £4,500 towards the cost of his training will help to dissuade companies from poaching well-trained staff, *Personnel Management Magazine* says.

SALEROOM

By John Shaw

A passion for dream machines

THE Englishman's passion for the classic car was on show at the weekend when British collectors bought four of the six top lots in a \$3.6 million (£2.25 million) Sotheby's sale of outstanding modern, veteran, and vintage cars in Cleveland, Ohio.

The top lots came from a motor and aviation museum established by Mr Frederick Crawford, a wealthy industrialist. He was selling 56 of the 69 lots to finance museum developments.

An anonymous British collector carried off the top lot, a 1934 Mercedes 500K Cabriolet "A". He paid \$660,000 (£412,500), well over high estimate, for the five-litre super-charged car in cream, beige and green. A British buyer also acquired the second highest lot, a 1900 Benz Vis-a-Vis, at \$112,200 (£70,125).

A 1923 Hispano-Suiza H6B Salamanca, bought for the museum for \$1,000 in 1946, went to an American for \$148,500 but a 1924 Lancia Lambda 4th Series Tourer at \$50,600 and a 1908 Thomas Flyer at \$140,800 both went to English buyers.

Three boxes of love letters tracing the affair between Tsar Alexander II of Russia and his mistress have come to light and are to be sold at Sotheby's London on April 26.

They contain 400 letters written over 15 years. After the death of the empress the Tsar's mistress, Princess Catherine Dolgorukina, became his wife in a morganatic marriage and they remained together until he was assassinated in 1881.

The correspondence is remarkable not only for its romantic content, but also for insights into the daily life of the Tsar.

The letters, likely to be a significant biographical source, are expected to fetch between £50,000 and £80,000.

Alexander was 47 when he began his affair with Catherine, who was 18. He had known her since childhood but the relationship deepened after he met her by chance while walking one day in 1865.

Equity criticized over £4.5m fund

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

EQUITY, the actors' union, which last week announced a £4.5 million welfare trust fund, has been criticized by a member of its council over the "undemocratic" decision.

The fund comes from money wrested by the BBC on behalf of itself and the independent television companies six years ago from European cable television outfits which have taken programmes off screen without paying any copyright or royalty fees; the companies, in Belgium, The Netherlands and Denmark, have been persuaded to pay annual contributions.

Of that money, Equity negotiated what has accumulated to £4.5 million representing fees accruing to members.

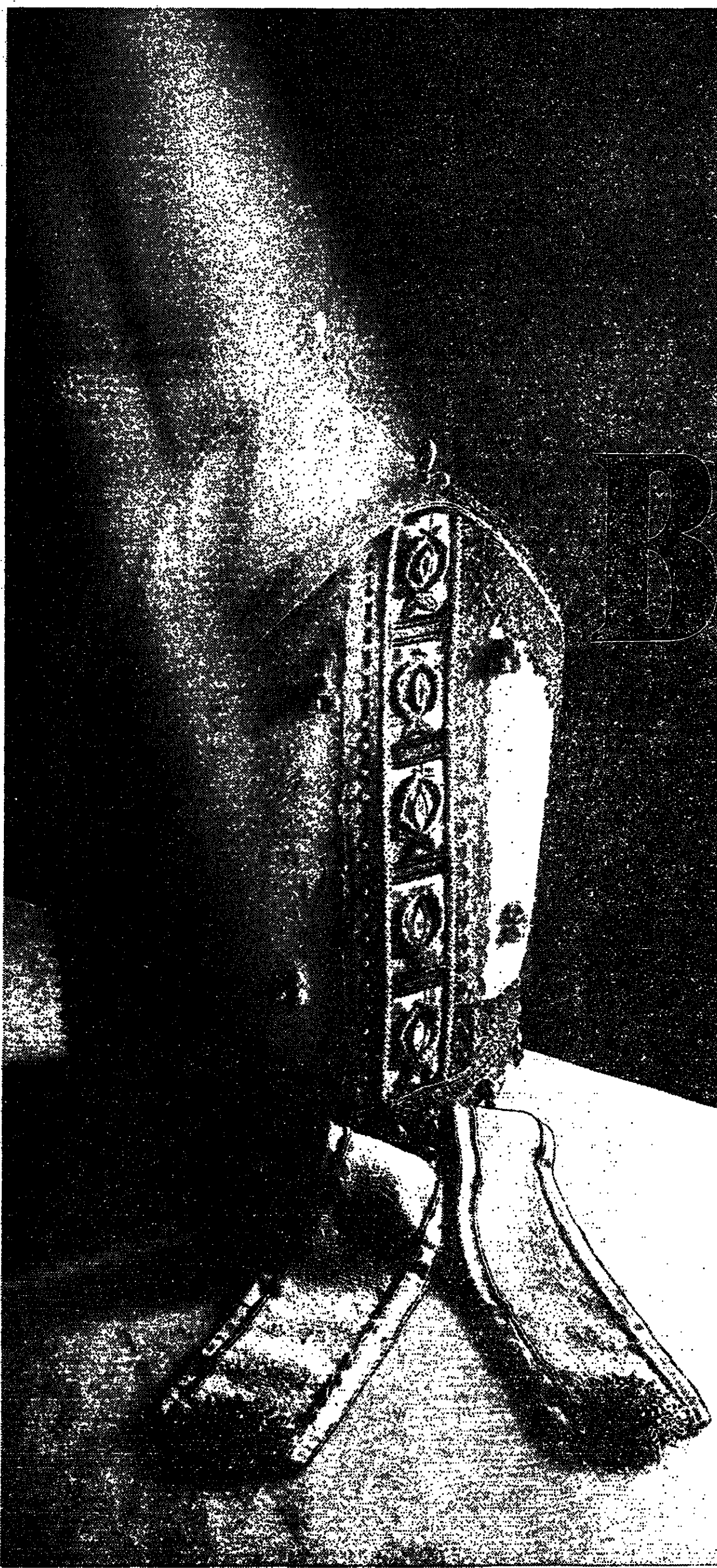
"The members, who earned this money, have a right to be consulted on what should happen to it, but they were not and it was undemocratic," Mr

Louis Mahoney, chairman of the Afro-Asian Artists Committee, said. Although a member of Equity's council, he was not present at the meeting which decided on the fund.

"There is considerable feeling that Equity has not been providing the service to the members it should be, and with this huge amount of money the members should have had a say."

"I am especially concerned that the council seems to have given control to a separate committee. The members will have no control through Equity, and there should have been a referendum."

Mr Ian McGarry, of Equity, said that members were informed at every stage through reports. "The council is elected by the members to make those sorts of decisions, and Mr Mahoney made no suggestion of a referendum at the earlier stages."



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And, indeed, even the Church of England is moving towards the ordination of women as priests.

It is about to be discussed, and voted on, in every diocese.

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MOVEMENT FOR THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN

Plymouth awaits the spectacle of trireme contests

By George Hill

THOSE flimsy rowing eights which thrashed up the tidalway between Putney and Mortlake at the weekend were no more than an appetizer for a contest really worth watching.

The Oxford and Cambridge event represented only a residual and attenuated version of the art of competitive rowing, which reached its height in the Aegean 2,500 years ago in that never-to-be-forgotten clash between the Athenians (or Dark Blues) and the Persians (Light Blues) over the old course at Salamis.

Last Friday, the Crown Estate Commissioners announced that the Trireme Trust had won the lease on Drake's Island, a rocky outcrop and historic landmark in Plymouth Sound, to develop the site for the building and operation of two full-sized triremes.

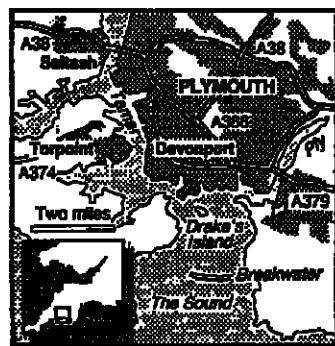
The Crown Estate, seeking "an imaginative and sympathetic new use" for the 6.5-acre island, chose the Trireme Trust's plans over a proposal to provide a holiday centre for children with life-shortening diseases. Now the prospect opens up for the first time in many centuries of contests between

bronze-prowed triremes forging along at nearly 10 knots, each with 170 rowers labouring at the oars. The 120th ships will be near-clones of the British-designed Olympias, built in Greece in 1987.

Powered by the muscle of hundreds of volunteers ready to pay for the fun of being galley-slaves, they are expected to have such a turn of speed that they could tow water-skiers behind them.

The next step for the promoters of the project will be to search for sponsors to collaborate in the £12 million plan, which will include a double slipway and boatsheds for the two planned £500,000 triremes, as well as an historical exhibition and accommodation for up to 350 trireme rowers. The centre could be working by 1993.

The city of Plymouth is well-disposed, though its officials sound faintly bemused by the exotic project. However, one Plymouth resident, Mr Colin May, wrote last week to our letters column to deplore the prospect of "these unwieldy monsters" manoeuvring in the crowded waters of Plymouth



Sound. He feared that the development might "despoil" the island, with its listed buildings and scheduled monuments.

The island, of which Sir Francis Drake was made governor in 1583, was used for defence purposes from the end of the 17th century to 1956. It has buildings dating from that period, including a barracks block, gun emplacements and an *oullente* prison. The Crown Estate said English Heritage would be fully consulted over architectural conversions and additions.

Yachtsmen who know Plymouth, with its swift currents, mudflats and regular majestic pas-

sage of warships and cross-channel ferries, may wonder how much at home triremes will be there. The ancient Greeks did not have to contend with Channel tides, let alone with nuclear submarines.

A trireme was a highly refined fighting machine, designed for efficiency as tightly as any rowing eight. The area of its hull in the water is smaller for each oarsman than it is even in a modern racing shell. But all-weather capacity was sacrificed for speed.

"Last time we were out in the open sea the waves were three feet high, and standing on deck you could see the hull flexing quite perceptibly," says Mr Owen Roberts, of Anglesy, who has been sailing master of the Olympias.

Triremes have probably negotiated Plymouth's tides before. Four hundred years after the battle of Salamis, the Romans had a naval base at Mount Batten, and its firepower is likely to have included vessels of similar type.

In the 19th century, a breakwater was built across the sound, and that created an area of sheltered water about two miles square, in addition to the estuaries of the rivers Tamar

and Plym. But at a weekend it can be a busy patch of water.

Mr Neil McShane is managing director of Trireme Enterprises Ltd, the company which has spun off from the trust to manage the operation. "We have worked in close liaison with the Queen's Harbourmaster and the City of Plymouth Harbourmaster," he says. "We are very confident that we can co-ordinate our operations in relation to the movements of large ships. The triremes are highly manoeuvrable, and as a last resort each ship will always have a powerful safety boat near by."

He insists that he has no worries on filling the more than 3,000 crew places each season. "You mustn't talk about this in terms of galley slaves, Charlton Heston, and the timekeeper beating out the rhythm on a drum. This is a fun activity, and we fully anticipate large numbers of people who have never rowed in their lives before getting enormous pleasure out of it."

The joint backers of the modern trireme answer the question with a securer serenity. They are Mr John Coates, former head of warship design for the Ministry of

Defence and structural designer of the Olympias, and Professor John Morrison, the classicist who marshalled tantalizing fragments of information from ancient times to provide, with Mr Coates's data, the two sides of an equation which led to the Olympias.

Professor Morrison points out that the crews of the Athenian triremes were not slaves, but free citizens who took pride in their skill and their swift ships. It was the Persians, and later the Romans, who forced slaves to do the work. Mr Coates recalls the two seasons of trials with the Olympias. "The experience of rowing these things is really quite something. Both times, the crews have been completely seized by it. . . . A team of 170 people involved together in this extraordinarily tight physical and mental union . . . they don't find it easily describable, but some of them said it had been the experience of their lives."

We shall see whether the experience is one which translates in its full glory from Aegean sunshine, raising and the wine-dark sea to beer, Devonport mist and the ebb past Devil's Point.

Commons questions on 'clean energy'

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

MR Peter Morrison, the Minister of State for Energy, will be urged today to explain the Government's policy on "clean" energy schemes to the Commons in a series of questions tabled by Mr Tony Speller, chairman of the All-Party Alternative Energy Group and Conservative MP for North Devon.

The move follows an agreement with the European Commission which, it is claimed, halted many such projects.

Under the Government's Non Fossil Fuel Obligation 300 groups have submitted plans to generate electricity from wind, water and waste-to-power schemes.

It had been hoped that the Obligation, paid for by a levy on the electricity consumer, would help lay the foundations of a non-polluting energy industry at a time of increasing concern about the environment.

However, under the new agreement financial support for such projects is to be limited to eight years rather than the 15 years needed to make them viable.

Mr Speller said the future for clean energy in Britain could be bleak.

NHS pay fear

Pay awards made by retailers such as Tesco and Marks & Spencer will rob the National Health Service of many ancillary workers, the Confederation of Health Service Employees has said. Its survey has found that 75 per cent of its NHS members had considered leaving in the last year.

Police siege

Armed police surrounded a house in Hampshire early yesterday where two gunmen were believed to be hiding. A special police negotiator was trying to talk the two out of the village home in Shawford, near Winchester. Police want to talk to the men about a series of armed robberies.

Murder charge

A man aged 42 from the Easton area of Bristol will appear in court in Bristol tomorrow charged with murdering Clive Tully, aged 24, of Auckland, New Zealand. Mr Tully's body was identified at the weekend, 10 days after being found in a bag near Newport, Gwent.

Time capsule

A Victorian country house, preserved as a "time capsule" with its interiors, contents and gardens unchanged since the 1860s, has been acquired by English Heritage. Brodsworth Hall, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire, will undergo repairs costing £2.6 million.

Missile alert

A bomb disposal team is examining a 4ft missile found in the sea off the Gower peninsula in South Wales. The missile, which had white fluid oozing from its casing, was discovered by a man walking on Whiteford beach. He alerted Swansea coastguards.

Chess draw

The two top British players in the international junior chess tournament at Oakham School, Rutland, Michael Adams, of Truro, and David Norwood, the Bolton grandmaster, drew their fourth-round game. With 3½ points each, they share the lead with two Soviet competitors.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly National Savings Premium Bond draw are £100,000 number 16 BK 289836 (winner lives in Derbyshire); £50,000 25 DB 394410 (Bristol); £25,000 35 TL 912609 (Bristol).

Battle over history syllabus set to continue

By David Tytler, Education Editor

THE battle over Britain's history will continue after the long-awaited National Curriculum working party report is published later this week, with the Prime Minister still apparently insisting that there should be greater emphasis on the learning of facts.

Politicians and historians are already lining up to take sides on the recommendations which were sent to Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, at the beginning of the year.

Publication was delayed for several weeks while Mrs Margaret Thatcher considered the report.

Mr MacGregor was unhappy with many aspects of the working party's interim report published last year and asked for several changes. As a result, British history is now expected to take up half of the teaching time, compared with 40 per cent as originally recommended.

It is understood, however, that Mrs Thatcher is still unhappy with the working party's failure to give sufficient importance to the learning of facts, and Mr MacGregor is likely to ask for further changes to be made during the consultation stage.

The working party has included a compulsory course in British history for pupils aged 14 to 16, and all courses will now have to be supported by a list of facts considered essential in covering the four aspects of history - politics, economics, social and religious factors.

The final report includes European and world history between 1929 and 1945, including the rise of Hitler from 1933, which was originally omitted. A course on Ancient Greece has been dropped and one on the British Empire in Africa 1880-1905 has been introduced for children aged 14 to 16. In a clear bias towards a British view of history, there will be little on black leaders or the rise of African nationalism.

Mr Jack Straw, Labour's front-bench education spokesman, has written to history professors and teachers accusing the Prime Minister of trying to make the history curriculum "much more a vehicle for indoctrination than for education".

He says that the demand for more facts goes "to the heart of the nature of history itself, whether there is a single truth

about the past or a number of truths".

Mr MacGregor said yesterday: "There is a rather obvious but critical distinction between wanting history teaching based on actual knowledge of the past and a selective choice of facts."

Mr Straw said last night that he was planning to ask Mr MacGregor for a statement in the Commons today to explain the reasons for the delay in publishing the report and the extent of the Prime Minister's involvement.

Ten local authorities have failed to provide acceptable schemes to allow head teachers and governors to take over the day-to-day running of their schools from today, as planned in the Government's education reforms.

Further talks are to take place between the local authorities and the Department of Education and Science to complete the scheme as soon as possible. Six authorities, Croydon and Newham in London, Hertfordshire, Worcester, Hertfordshire, Isles of Scilly, and Leicestershire, have been told their schemes require further work before they can be considered. Talks are now taking place with Hillingdon, Manchester, Stockport, and Wirral, which refused to accept the Government's ruling that schools should be allowed to charge the real cost of teachers' salaries and not the average.

Education, page 16
Letters, page 13

Glory of the Downs gives way to the plough



Mr Belden surveys ploughed-up grassland now planted with corn. The thin top soil has been torn up, leaving the grey-white chalk exposed

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

MR Phil Belden, the South Downs conservation officer of West Sussex County Council, sometimes believes he is fighting a losing battle as he watches one of England's last remaining areas of chalk grassland disappearing under the plough.

It is precisely the poor quality of the soil that makes it so rich in wild flowers, as no one species can predominate: "You can find up to 40 different plants in a square metre of

turf, each with its associated insect," Mr Belden says.

Since 1987, the entire 80-mile stretch of the South Downs, from Beachy Head in the east to Winchester in the West, has been designated an Environmentally Sensitive Area. Farmers receive £14 an acre for grazing at agreed levels without using fertilizers or pesticides, and £65 an acre if they revert to grassland.

However, the impact of the scheme has been limited. Roughly half the 300 farmers and landowners on the

Downs are receiving payments under the scheme, but only about 12 per cent of the 150,000 acres within the designated area are covered by conservation agreements.

The system's weakness lies in its voluntary nature, Mr Belden says. "We suspect many farmers plan to plough up reverted grassland when the five-year term of their agreements expires in 1991. It is vital that the scheme be extended well beyond that date."

His fears were echoed in a report

presented last month to the council's coast and countryside committee, which noted: "Sadly, the battle to conserve fully the natural beauty of the Sussex Downs shows no signs of being won. As Environmentally Sensitive Areas agreements are signed, so other downland is ploughed."

The council is particularly concerned at the ploughing up this year of a vast field of more than 100 acres east of Chantry Post, through which the South Downs Way, England's only long-distance bridleway, passes.

Demands by health groups

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

THE Government will come under further pressure today to modify its health service reforms after demands from 14 health bodies for guarantees to protect patients.

The organizations, which include the Health Visitors' Association, the Association of British Paediatric Nurses, the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, the Community Psychiatric Nurses Association and the health service unions NUPE and Cobse, are calling for guaranteed growth in funding to cover new patterns of diseases such as AIDS, the growing number of elderly people and medical advances. A statement pub-

lished by the group today also demands improved staff training, a strengthening of patients' rights and quality assurance mechanisms.

The groups will press peers from all parties to include these points in the National Health Service and Community Care Bill which is being debated in the Lords this week.

The statement, which comes after the call for a pilot study from the medical and nursing royal colleges last week, says the policies set out in the Bill raise more potential problems for the health service than they appear to solve. It points to the absence of

strong safeguards to maintain high standards of care and improve quality in the new market-oriented NHS, the lack of support for the schemes among professional NHS staff and the public and the speed of the reform, which it says would undermine staff morale.

The statement urges the Government to set up a fully evaluated quality assurance system, adequate funding and development of professional and vocational training, sufficient numbers of qualified professional and trained support staff and the retention of existing national staff grading and careers structures.

Future of BAOR reviewed

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

MERGING elements of the British Army of the Rhine into multinational forces in Europe is seen in the Ministry of Defence as one of the most attractive options for the future, according to sources.

Senior policy staff in the ministry who are examining options to change the shape of Britain's armed services, in the light of the diminished threat from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, think that mixed forces should be of divisional strength, containing about 12,000 men.

Officials have examined the alternative of forming brigade strength forces, about 4,000 men, but feel they would be

impractical. The Franco-West German brigade, set up two years ago, has been beset with organizational problems.

Last week in evidence to the Commons defence committee, Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Defence, said that the idea of multinational forces "gets across the message of a genuine alliance".

The suggested change for the BAOR is unlikely to be discussed in detail in the Government's defence White Paper, which is being published today. Although it will contain a lengthy essay on the political changes in Eastern Europe and possible implica-

tions for Britain's defence strategy, the options now under examination will not be listed.

While there is uncertainty and instability, the Government is determined to keep secret its ideas for Britain's future defence requirements.

Whitehall sources said the Government had a problem of presentation with this year's White Paper, as it needed to convince the public that it was in the business of making changes "at the right time and in the right way".

Ministers also wanted to reassure men and women in the services that they had a future in the Forces.

Conservative Council Conference

Party faithful keep doubts to themselves

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

ON the evidence of the Conservative Council Conference at Cheltenham, the Conservative Party in the country is far more solid, in the face of the difficulties facing the Government, than the party at Westminster.

A constituency association chairman barked "marvellous" when asked about the grassroots mood. "Marvellous?" "Yes, absolutely marvellous," he declared, and marched off.

The central council, where constituency chairmen, agents or other senior local figures predominate, tends to be the most faithful of the party faithful. Many believe that the leadership furore is the creation of the media.

However, the Cheltenham representatives said enough from the conference platform and in private to suggest that they were worried about in-

terest rates and the community charge.

What had angered them was the way their Westminster colleagues had allowed concern over those issues to divert them from a debate on the leadership.

The Welsh representative who declared on Friday that he would "go through fire for Margaret Thatcher" but not a yard for some of the "flashy pretenders" to her throne was cheered to the rafters.

Away from the conference floor, Mr Ronald Clements, of Leicester South, told me: "There is no alternative in sight to the present leadership. We are in an era when conviction is being portrayed as dogma, resolution as intransigence and determination as self-will."

Mrs Thatcher's speech was warmly received. Her subtle reminders, in a rousing finale,

Mrs Thatcher gave the council the following ideas for an advertisement for her job: Senior position in government involving long hours, short holidays and tall orders. Expertise required in the whole range of government policy and especially in carrying cans. Tied cottage . . . makes job ideal for someone used to living above the shop. Experience in this line of work preferred but not always possible. Current status: 650 applicants and no vacancy.

of the values that had brought her to the leadership brought a respectful ovation.

However, few of the Cheltenham representatives believe there is any likelihood of the fever which has gripped the party abating, at least until after the May local elections, when they expect to do badly.

In the debate answered by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Con-

servative chairman, on Friday, so many speakers said the Tories were right and the public relations wrong that ministers will not ignore their warnings. Indeed, the degree of backing for the principle of the community charge surprised ministers.

However, that view was coupled with an almost unanimous view that its introduction had been woefully mishandled. The Government was accused of failing to get across how disastrous the retention of revalued rates would have been, and of unrealistically estimating the spending needs of councils.

The motives of Mr Norman Tebbit, MP for Chingford, in putting himself forward as a successor to Mrs Thatcher were the subject of speculation throughout the conference. If there was a consensus, it was that his intervention had confirmed that any challenge to Mrs

Thatcher would result in a dogfight that would put the Tories out of office.

Conservatives were warned by Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, that they would not win the next general election by focusing on the record of the last Labour government (Andrew Pierce writes).

In a speech during Saturday's debate on the environment, Mr Patten said: "We will not win the 1990s by talking about the 1970s. We must have a clear and convincing message."

"Talk to those young voters about Mr Healey and the International Monetary Fund and you might as well be talking about the War of the Roses."

Mr Norman Tebbit yesterday hailed the Prime Minister's declaration of her determination to stay in office as "music to my ears".

He was speaking as it appeared that Mrs Margaret Thatcher's promise at Cheltenham on Saturday that she had the stomach for the fight ahead had quelled, at least temporarily, the feverish speculation about the Conservative Party leadership.

Mr Tebbit, whose own announcement of his readiness to stand if Mrs Thatcher stepped down before the next election had overshadowed the meeting of the Conservative Central Council, suggested that his generation, including Mr Douglas Hurd and Mr Michael Heseltine, might be ruled out by age as likely future leaders of the party. However, he claimed that his intervention on the

eve of the council had helped to "rehabilitate" the party by presenting the opportunity for Mrs Thatcher to kill speculation about a contest.

Mrs Thatcher used her speech to scotch any suggestion of an impending departure.

Treating the subject with due lightness to avoid the impression that she took it too seriously, Mrs Thatcher delighted her audience by stating at the start of her speech: "To avoid any possible misunderstanding, and at the risk of disappointing a few gallant colonels, let me make one thing absolutely clear: I haven't come to Cheltenham to retire."

She won a warm ovation for a speech in which she said there was no vacancy for her job, and then reminded her audience of the values she had defended since she became

Tebbit acclaims Thatcher pledge on fight ahead

By Our Chief Political Correspondent

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She won a warm ovation for a speech in which she said there was no vacancy for her job, and then reminded her audience of the values she had defended since she became

party leader in 1975. Senior Conservatives believe, however, that the leadership issue is unlikely to go away until after the May local elections.

Mr Tebbit, in an interview with David Frost on TV-am, named ministers such as Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, as the more likely eventual contenders to succeed Mrs Thatcher. He also singled out a favourite of the right, Mr Michael Portillo, the junior transport minister, as a possible runner.

Mr Tebbit accepted that there was no strong Thatcherite candidate challenging for the succession. He said he did not think Mr Heseltine had the slightest intention of ever "challenging" Mrs Thatcher. "He knows it would completely ruin his chances of eventually succeeding her."


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ANC and de Klerk try to salvage reform process

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

THE South African Government and the African National Congress will convene separate, top-level meetings this week in an attempt to salvage the political reform process threatened with collapse by widespread violence in black communities.

The crisis arose at the weekend when the ANC called off preliminary negotiations with the Government scheduled for April 11, and abandoned plans for a joint peace rally with the rival Inkatha movement in Natal townships which are riven by fighting between their respective supporters.

Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC's vice-president, cited a clash between black demonstrators and riot police in Sebokeng township, south of Johannesburg, last week as the reason for postponing the talks with Pretoria. "If the Government talks about negotiations on the one hand and murders our people on the other, that we cannot accept."

At least 11 people were killed, and several hundreds injured, when police opened fire on a huge crowd of township dwellers protesting against high rents and racially segregated councils. The incident is being compared by black nationalists with the Sharpeville massacre in 1960, when 69 people were killed.

However, analysts believe the ANC move was a reaction to growing militancy in the townships, and within its own ranks, which is threatening to undermine its authority for negotiating a political settlement with the Government.

Hardliners are apparently warning the ANC leadership that it is in danger of losing the support of impatient youths to more radical organisations, such as the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), which opposes any form of dialogue with Pretoria.

The ANC said it will review the suspension of the talks at an extraordinary meeting of its National Executive Committee in Lusaka this week, and President de Klerk has called a two-day Cabinet meeting at a secret location to assess the situation. The momentum for negotiations has

clearly been lost, but Mr de Klerk remains hopeful that his carefully laid plans for a post-apartheid society can be salvaged.

Addressing a National Party youth congress at the weekend, he said: "I told Mr Mandela that my door remained open, and he was welcome to meet me. The Government remains committed to talks with all those working for peaceful solutions."

Mr de Klerk said that while there might be room for criticism of police action, he did not believe that it should stand in the way of negotiations. "Discussions can contribute to avoiding similar incidents in the future... that should be our objective."

He said the violence was having "a dramatic and detrimental effect on attitudes to reform," but he refrained from holding the ANC responsible. The black leadership situation was difficult to read, and there were many factions vying for power, he said.

Meanwhile, both Mr Mandela and Mr de Klerk are pursuing separate peace initiatives this week. The ANC leader is due to tour the troubled Natal region today and tomorrow, and is expected to have private discussions with Chief

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, in an attempt to end the bloody conflict between their followers.

Police said yesterday eight more people had been killed and 27 wounded in clashes in the area in 24 hours.

Mr de Klerk will lead a Cabinet team in discussions on Thursday with Chief Buthelezi, in his capacity as Chief Minister of the KwaZulu homeland, and the leaders of the five other autonomous tribal regions. The chairman of the white, Indian and Coloured (mixed race) Houses of Parliament will participate in the conference on proposals for a new constitution.

In a related development, the Government has acceded to demands by Chief Buthelezi for the removal of black troops from the Natal townships, whom he has accused of siding with pro-ANC forces. Mr Adriaan Vlok, the Minister of Law and Order, said soldiers alleged to have taken sides in the conflict were being withdrawn and police were being deployed.

While the various parties urgently discuss strategy, the ANC is addressing militant tendencies and coincidentally raising the political temperature with threats to resume its "armed struggle".



Mr Mandela, the ANC leader, addressing a mass meeting of his followers in Bisho, capital of Ciskei homeland

Mandela's authority over followers falters

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

WHEN Mr Nelson Mandela was released from prison five weeks ago, the masses hailed him as a saviour, even though he made it clear that he had no magic formula to end the inequities of apartheid.

Within weeks, the illusion of easy solutions has been shattered, and unrealistic expectations placed on him on both sides of South Africa's racial divide have been swept away by a maelstrom of violence and anxiety.

Amid the strife in black townships and tribal homelands, Mr Mandela's moral authority has begun to falter. On at least one occasion he has seriously misjudged the mood of his own followers and the African National Congress is confused and divided.

The problem is not Mr Mandela, an intelligent and reasonable man committed to a peaceful settlement of his country's racial dilemmas. The problem is that he may have far less influence over the voiceless black millions than anyone expected.

Since his release he has called repeatedly on black pupils to end a nationwide school boycott, and emphasized the importance of an educated population in creating a post-apartheid society. The day after he launched his appeal at a mass rally near Soweto, thousands of black teachers quit their classes and now more than 70,000 pupils are on the streets.

Last month, Mr Mandela instructed his supporters in Natal townships to throw their weapons into the sea. One week later, the area was in flames as they clashed with members of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha movement in the most widespread fighting so far in a conflict which has claimed more than 1,000 lives in two years.

In a misguided attempt to halt the carnage, Mr Mandela infuriated his followers in Natal by agreeing to address a joint rally for peace with Chief Buthelezi — in an Inkatha stronghold. The event was called off after a delegation led

by a veteran ANC leader, Mr Harry Gwala, informed him he had acted injudiciously by failing to consult the local population in advance.

In Edendale and Imbali, Natal communities supposedly under the sway of the ANC, its flag is conspicuously absent. Township dwellers wearing T-shirts bearing Mr Mandela's portrait are beaten by militant youths who believe he has reneged on the black nationalist struggle by negotiating with the Government.

Cracks are appearing in the vast constituency which the ANC has traditionally claimed, and the mood is ugly and rebellious. The fissures are spreading to the ANC leadership, in danger of being outflanked by militant tendencies in the townships and undermined by similar factions within its own ranks.

The violence is attributed to a lost generation of youths, whose crude political views were forged by similar strife in the mid-1980s. Their allegiance to the mainstream of the ANC is doubtful, and the slogan "liberation before education" is gaining popularity.

Mr Robert Schrire, a political scientist at the University of Cape Town, says the influential role of black nationalist organizations in



Chief Buthelezi: Plan for rally with Mr Mandela

the 1984-85 unrest is now lacking, and suggests that rioting sparked by anger and frustration at social and economic deprivation is slipping out of their control.

Mr Mohammed Valli Moosa, an executive of the United Democratic Front (UDF), the main ANC surrogate, denies the strife has been orchestrated at national level, and says it is a case of local leaders taking advantage of the liberalized political climate to convey grievances to the authorities.

Remarkably, General Herman Stadler, the former chief of the security police, agrees. He attributes the strife to a variety of factors such as socio-economic deprivation, "freedom euphoria", conflict between ANC moderates and militants and common criminals exploiting the volatile situation.

He believes the influence of Mr Mandela and other ANC leaders has been eroded by their calls for peace, and that they will lose further support if they renounce the "armed struggle".

Certainly both Mr Mandela and Chief Buthelezi seem to have failed the test of leadership presented by the conflict in Natal, where their peace overtures have generated more heat than light.

Last week *Business Day*, a respected English-language daily, summed up their dilemma: "If black leaders do not want the country to be ungovernable... they will have to establish their authority over the violent communities they claim to represent."

On the other side of the racial divide, the ANC's apparent inability or unwillingness to control the violence is creating alarm and despondency. Mr John Hutchinson, a property broker of liberal views, says: "The day they released Mandela I went out and celebrated. I really thought we were going to get rid of racism and work together for a sane society. Now I don't know what to think. It's all very worrying."

Supreme Court to rule on execution

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

A SUPREME COURT judge will decide today whether to overturn a stay of execution for Robert Alton Harris, who was scheduled at 3.00am tomorrow to become the first person to go to the gas chamber in California in 23 years.

In a frantic bout of eleventh-hour legal manoeuvring, Harris's lawyers persuaded a federal appeals judge on Friday to block the execution on the ground that he had received inadequate psychiatric evaluation at the time of his original trial in 1979.

The state of California filed an emergency appeal with the US Supreme Court, which has rejected four earlier appeals by Harris, aged 37, a murderer.

Opponents of capital punishment, who have mounted a vigil outside the San Quentin state prison near San Francisco, believe that Harris's execution would inspire other states with large Death-Row populations to follow suit.

Most of the 121 executions since the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976 have been in a few southern states considered to be outside the mainstream.

The opponents also fear Harris's execution would open the floodgates in California, where there are more than 270 prisoners on Death Row.

Granting the stay of execution on Friday, Judge John Noonan overturned a decision by a District Court in San Diego two days earlier, saying it should have ordered a fact-finding hearing on Harris's claim that he had received inadequate psychiatric evaluation.

He said Harris was constitutionally entitled to a hearing by a three-judge appeals panel, which could take months.

Mr John Van de Kamp, state Attorney General, said the stay of execution would lead to "years of endless litigation".

Harris was sentenced to death for murdering two teenage boys in 1978.

Peking thwarts silent protest

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

PARAMILITARY police cordoned off Tiananmen Square and saturated central Peking yesterday, revealing the authorities' nervousness about calls to Peking residents to gather silently in the square in protest at the massacre of demonstrators last June.

The fact that no demonstration took place yesterday — the first of a series of sensitive dates in the next two months — is likely to be seen as a victory by the authorities and as vindicating their strongarm tactics.

In an attempt to defend cordoning off the square, police wearing combat helmets and carrying sub-machine guns patrolled the university district on motor cycles and other areas on foot.

Plainclothes police were everywhere — on one street corner a woman looking like a peasant from the suburbs was seen muttering into a walkie-talkie. An ambulance, three fire engines, a water cannon, and several police vehicles were parked close to the square.

Even when the cordon was lifted in the evening, some 30 paramilitary police remained around the memorial in the centre of the square, not allowing anyone to pass. The memorial was at the heart of last year's student occupation of the square.

The authorities' elaborate security arrangements seemed to be largely unnecessary. Most would-be protesters had been scared off by warnings by the State Council that no one was to go to Tiananmen

Square, or they would "be responsible for the consequences". Those who thronged the streets around the square were mostly tourists from other parts of China.

On Peking's campuses, the springboard for last year's protests, students said they knew of the call to demonstrate, but felt it would achieve nothing, given the heavy security and the intransigence of the leadership. "It would be like bashing an egg against a stone," said one student. "What's the point in demonstrating?" said one young woman bitterly. "There's no hope for China now whatever we do."

Only two days previously, the Peking authorities had said that people would be free to walk in the square, so the security clampdown seems to have been a last-minute decision.

It is believed that the calls for an anti-government demonstration came from dissidents in exile. Letters and faxes have circulated in Peking for several weeks calling for students and residents to "take a stroll" yesterday on Tiananmen Square in protest.

"Taking a stroll" is a euphemism for demonstrating, since protesting is illegal. Yesterday was apparently chosen by the exiles as the last Sunday (and therefore most people's last day off) before the Chinese festival of Qingming, or remembrance of the dead.

The Government faces two months of sensitive anniversaries, culminating on June 4.

Tigers' leader back from dead

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

EIGHT months after being unofficially declared dead, Mr Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, called a press conference yesterday in his stronghold of Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka.

It was a defiant, almost mocking gesture designed to prove that the ferocious Tigers are again the undisputed overlords of north and east Sri Lanka. The last Indian troops left nine days ago and the Tigers' rivals are running for their lives, leaving Mr Prabhakaran as the only effective force in the region.

He described some of his close encounters with Indian forces since he went into hiding 2½ years ago. On one occasion Indian soldiers came to within 50 yards of his jungle hide-out, he said. On other occasions he was shaken by bombs dropped by Indian planes.

He has not been seen in public since Indian troops arrived in Sri Lanka in July 1987, in an abortive and costly attempt to separate warring Tamil rivals. They left in humiliation, with more than 1,500 men dead and 3,000 wounded. Indian military sources acknowledge that the troops were ill-prepared to fight a guerrilla force that was highly motivated and knew the rugged terrain.

Mr Prabhakaran, flanked by several heavily armed men wearing tiger-striped military fatigues, said his fighters

would not surrender their weapons "until the Tamils win all their rights". He boasted that his men had defeated the world's fourth-largest army, India, had failed to beat them, politically or militarily.

The Sri Lankan Army has established a presence in the north and east and Mr Prabhakaran expressed suspicion that the Tigers were not safe from attack, despite a ceasefire agreement. He said the rebels were ready to contest elections.

Rumours of Mr Prabhakaran's death circulated widely after reports of a gun battle with a rival. At that point it seemed that the Tigers were on the run. But they are now as dominant as ever.

The rebels are enormously popular and would without doubt sweep the board in elections in the Northern Province. The aim of establishing an independent homeland in the north and east called Eelam now seems to be closer than ever.

Indian troops would almost certainly still be in Sri Lanka if Mr Rajiv Gandhi had not lost last November's general election. The new government of Mr V.P. Singh, the Prime Minister, promised during the election campaign to end India's costly involvement in the civil war.

The Tigers have never been better armed, having seized Indian weapons. They even preside over people's courts.

Paratroops flown to Chad clash

Paris

A detachment of 147 *Berets Rouges*, crack paratroopers stationed at Carcassonne, south-west France, were flown to the Chad capital, Ndjameña, at the weekend after fierce border clashes between Chad troops and rebels (Alan Tiltier writes). The insurgents crossed over from the Sudanese region of Darfour and attacked Chad border garrisons. Chad has accused both Libya, its long-time enemy, and Sudan of being behind the clashes.

Le Pen leader 'by acclaim'

Paris

M Jean-Marie Le Pen was re-elected by acclaim yesterday as leader of the extreme right wing movement, Front National (Alan Tiltier writes). The congress in Nice also adopted the anti-immigrant slogan: "Produce French With the French". Pressure by the Front also forced the immigration issue to the top of the agenda at a joint rally of traditional right-wing parties at Villepinte, the exhibition complex next to Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris. M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former President, in the keynote speech, urged a tightening of the Nationality Code to force those born of foreign parents in France to apply for citizenship rather than win it automatically.

Nepal sacks 9 ministers

Kathmandu

King Birendra of Nepal has dismissed nine ministers who opposed the crackdown on the campaign of pro-democracy demonstrations and strikes. Yesterday about 10,000 protesters in the town of Lalitpur continued to keep police at bay behind makeshift barricades. Two deaths have been confirmed in protests there since Friday. (Reuters)

Suicide 'spy' exonerated

Ottawa

Herbert Norman, a Canadian diplomat who committed suicide in 1957 after being repeatedly accused by a US congressional committee of spying for the Soviet Union, has been posthumously exonerated (John Best writes). A Canadian report found "not one iota of evidence" of spying although he had communist sympathies.

Lambada returns to set Brazil in motion

From Charles Bremner, Rio de Janeiro

THE girls from Ipanema have been queuing up this week, along with their boyfriends, outside the Parahs cinema, a pebble's throw from Bum-Bum's bikini boutique. The object of their interest is an American film — *Lambada*, the *Forbidden Dance*.

The story is a topical one: a nice girl from the Amazon comes up with the idea of saving the rain forest by going to the United States and dancing her heart out — not just any dance of course, but the blatantly erotic, peisvigrinding two-step that was sold in a hurricane of hype to Europe last summer under the guise of "latest craze from Brazil".

"If it got any hotter, it wouldn't be dancing," says the film poster from the Menahem Golan company which has just scored a dead heat in the Hollywood race to exploit the shrewdest musical packaging operation since the Monkees pop group was concocted for the teenage market in the 1960s.

The rival film, called just *Lambada*, tells the tale of a Beverly Hills teacher who turns into a lambada ace at night to "earn the respect" of his pupils. No

fewer than five other film companies — US and Italian — are lambada'ing their way to the bank with titles that include: *Naked Lambada*, *Blame it on the Lambada* (a murder mystery), *Lambada: The Seduction*, and *Lambada: The Sound of Love*.

After its French launch last year, when it became the biggest selling European single of the year, the catchy lambada song now has Latin America and the seaboard cities of the US in its grip.

There is virtually nowhere, from Andean villages to the nightclubs of Buenos Aires that you can escape the relentless dirty, pounded out by the Paris-based group Kaoma, a band made up of Africans, French and expatriate Brazilians.

In Nicaragua, Señor Daniel Ortega danced his way through the recent election campaign to it — the Sandinista radio station was playing little else; in Ecuador, they offer you lambada cocktails in hotel bars; in Lima, Kaoma's synthesized sound blares out from dilapidated record stalls.

In New York and Los Angeles the dance has taken off with a vengeance, but the gringos in less cosmopolitan stretches of the country are said to

find the thigh-twisting moves too daring. Now, after some hesitation, Brazil has itself succumbed to what one US critic has dubbed "processed folk music from nowhere".

Local artists are recording "genuine Brazilian lambada" in clubs, the dance is supplanting the samba and the salsa; one television channel devoted a whole evening to lambada last week, with the cameras spending little time on anything above waist level. As everyone knows, the lambada has done for tiny skirts and miniature undies what the tango did for the slinky black dress.

"So what if it was a French gimmick and an American movie?" says Senhorinha Maria Bastos, an Ipanema resident, as she pays her 75 cruzeiros (£1.20) to watch *Forbidden Dance*, which stars Laura Herring, a former Miss USA. "It was Brazilian to begin with and anyway it's fun."

The lambada's full circle back to Brazil is an irony that is being savoured by Rio's sophisticates and deplored by nationalists and purists.

"This is the Carmem Miranda syndrome again," complained Ana Maria Bahiana, a music critic. "It's the old story of foreigners going to Brazil and reaping a cheap profit.

Those two Frenchmen were very clever."

An Afro-Brazilian-Caribbean hybrid that mixes salsa, merengue — a salsa-type dance — and rock, the lambada (its name means "whipped" in Brazilian) had been popular for years in the north-eastern part of the country, but was shunned in the big cities as a rather crude rural form.

M Jean Karakos and M Olivier Lorasac spotted the ingredients for a hit when they saw it in 1988. They put together Kaoma, re-invented a lambada sound that combined rock, salsa, tango accordion and other flavours and developed a marketing strategy that depended heavily on a deal under which it was aired repeatedly on the French TF-1 channel.

The only snag came in the form of a lawsuit by two Bolivians who claim that they wrote the original song. A settlement has been reached on undisclosed terms.

Though electronic force feeding had not been invented at the time, the tango followed a similar circuitous route when it travelled in the early years of the century from the docksides of Buenos Aires to Paris and back to Argentina, where it was reclaimed as a cultural treasure.

Moscow reinforces garrison in Vilnius

Abachov puts pressure on Lithuanians

Net visit by US chief put off



Moscow reinforces garrison in Vilnius

From Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

THE Soviet garrison in Vilnius was reinforced yesterday by what seemed to be one authorized infantry battalion. Fifteen armoured personnel carriers passed through the town early yesterday and the rest of the unit followed in two stages during the day.

The second echelon, which disembarked from railway flat cars at a station next to the airport, consisted of 28 armoured personnel carriers, eight large lorries, two other vehicles, and one petrol tanker.

Military traffic controllers directed them by a route which avoided the centre of town and took them to the huge military base in northern Vilnius where a much larger military column preceded them some days ago.

People in Vilnius watched closely as the APCs lurched down, scoring the asphalt and turning corners with difficulty. Youthful soldiers, hatless in the sunshine, poked their heads from the hatches. Expectation is growing here

that Mr Gorbachev's rule may very shortly be imposed in Lithuania by the Army if, as is certain, the Lithuanian Parliament fails to respond to his sining today to his latest demand — couched in the form of an appeal — that it revoke its Declaration of Independence.

The Lithuanian Communist Party, led by the deputy prime minister, Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, is expected today to launch a parliamentary initiative aimed at setting up a strong negotiating team and an agenda for serious negotiations with Moscow.

However, since in the view of most Lithuanians, this team would have to be mainly composed of leading Communists with experience of government dealings with Moscow, it is expected that the proposal will be rejected by the Sajudis majority in parliament.

This has shown signs, in one important respect, of moving towards a possible com-

promise with Moscow, on the Soviet demand that a referendum be held on the independence issue.

However, President Vytautas Landsbergis's words on this subject in the past few days have been hedged about with qualifications, and the Lithuanian leadership seems to be moving much too slowly to satisfy Moscow.

The reinforcement of the Vilnius garrison, and reports of troop movements near the second city, Kaunas, are seen as preparation for a possible

military move. It is thought however that Mr Gorbachev will give the Parliament at least one more formal chance to change its mind.

Violent resistance to an army move is not expected. It has been repeatedly ruled out by the Government, though some members of the radical "Kaunas faction" of Sajudis have been talking of the need to prepare for this.

The Parliament building, which also houses President Landsbergis's office, is guarded only by a handful of

police armed with pistols and a group of unarmed Sajudis volunteers whose only purpose is to stop any action by unarmed volunteers from Soviet loyalist groups.

Inside the building, the foreign press corps has shrunk drastically as Soviet pressure is applied and visas are refused. It now consists of barely a dozen people, including some rather brave Lithuanian female interpreters. Most of those left are Czech and Polish, and only one English-speaking journalist remains.

The last American correspondent left for the airport last night.

This relieves the pressure on the smoke-filled air in the press room, and on the heroically dutiful telephone staff, but deprives the Lithuanian Government of most of what President Landsbergis described this week as "our best defence".

The regular press conferences have been discontinued for lack of attendance, and journalists are reduced to stopping members of the

leadership in the corridors. Most look cheerful if tense, though some have an uncomfortable air of people preparing themselves for martyrdom.

Soviet pressure has also been applied on the one remaining unofficial American adviser, and the small group of American-Lithuanian and Canadian-Lithuanian students working in the information centre are wondering about their own future, amid worried telephone calls from their parents.

Solidarity rallies staged in Ukraine

By Bohdan Nahaylo

TENS of thousands of Ukrainians defied the authorities on Saturday and held mass meetings throughout the Ukraine in support of Lithuanian independence. The action, called by Rukh, the Ukrainian nationalist movement, was the biggest demonstration of solidarity with Lithuania so far inside the Soviet Union.

In the Ukrainian capital Kiev an estimated 30,000 demonstrators passed a resolution criticizing President Gorbachev for "interfering in the internal affairs of the independent Lithuanian republic" and urging him to "withdraw the occupying troops" from Lithuania.

Even bigger rallies were held in the western Ukrainian cities of Lvov, Ternopol and Ivano-Frankovsk. In Lvov over 100,000 demonstrators are reported to have approved a resolution calling for a political strike "if the imperial pressure on Lithuania" is continued. Smaller meetings are also known to have been held in Donetsk, Krivoi Rog, Vinnitsya, Rovno and Chernovits.

Saturday's mass meetings represent another important victory for Rukh in its continuing trial of strength with the Ukrainian party authorities.

Soviet military vehicles standing on carriages at a station near Vilnius yesterday where they have been transported in reinforcement

Gorbachov puts extra pressure on Lithuanians

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

PRESIDENT Gorbachov stepped up the pressure on Lithuania over the weekend with a sharp warning of "grave consequences" unless the Lithuanians retracted their unilateral declaration of independence.

He said the situation in the Baltic republic had taken on a dramatic character. The pointed disrespect for the Soviet Constitution, the challenge to Soviet laws and Lithuania's failure to fulfil its obligations to the rest of the country had given rise to "just indignation" all over the Soviet Union.

And in a direct appeal to the Lithuanian people, he said attempts were being made to convince them that genuine sovereignty within the Soviet Union was impossible, old grudges were being deliberately rekindled and "the dark sides of life together" were being emphasized.

He demanded the immediate annulment of the "illegal acts" adopted by Lithuania's Supreme Council, and promised this would open the way for discussions on the whole range of problems on the only acceptable basis — within the framework of the Soviet Constitution.

His appeal followed the occupation on Friday by Soviet troops of more key buildings in Vilnius, including the Communist Party headquarters from which members of the breakaway Lithuanian party were barred.

His warning maintained a carefully calibrated increase in pressure, military and psychological, which has stopped short of outright suppression of the bid for independence but left President Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania less and less room for manoeuvre.

Mr Gorbachov's statement was swiftly denounced by Mr Landsbergis as "extremely harsh and vindictive" but he said the Lithuanian Parliament would consider the Soviet appeal today. And

though he has repeatedly refused to consider rescinding the independence declaration, he suggested that he would consider a face-saving format to rework the wording of the declaration.

Soviet troops now occupy many of the key installations in Lithuania, but have not disrupted work there. Interior Ministry soldiers are stationed in the offices of several daily newspapers and weekly magazines, which are edited from a building belonging to the Communist Party.

The former Institute of Communist Party History, turned over by the new Government to the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, was also taken over on Friday evening. Mr Gorbachov has insisted that he is merely protecting party property.

There were a number of demonstrations supporting the Lithuanians in other republics over the weekend. In Georgia, several thousand demonstrators gathered in Tbilisi, demanding the Soviet Army "stop the occupation of the Baltic region."

In Belorussia the Popular Front denounced a claim on Lithuanian territory made by the belorussian Parliament's leadership on Friday. The Presidium of the republic's Supreme Soviet said that if Lithuania became independent, it would demand back the city of Vilnius and six rural districts whose ownership has been disputed with Poland and Belorussia for years.

In Moscow, several hundred people gathered in Gorky Park on Saturday to protest against Army intervention and support the right of Soviet republics to secede from the Union.

On Saturday the founding congress was held here of the Liberal Democratic Party, which its leaders claimed was the first nationwide congress of a non-communist party in Soviet history.

Soviet visit by US army chief put off

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

THE Bush Administration has postponed a visit by the US Army Chief of Staff to the Soviet Union, a move which illustrates the extremely delicate tightrope the White House is walking over the Lithuanian crisis.

The postponement of General Carl Vuono's visit last week was not announced, presumably to avoid it being seen as a sign of Washington's disapproval of Moscow's campaign of intimidation in the Baltic republic.

According to Administration officials, the decision was taken partly because the visit might have been seen as sanctioning Moscow's conduct, but also to avoid the potential embarrassment of having a top military official in the Soviet Union at a moment when it cracked down on Lithuania.

General Vuono's trip, beginning at the weekend, would have been the first by a US Army Chief of Staff since 1945. The move came at the end of a week which saw an abrupt about-turn in US fac-



General Vuono: Seeking to avoid embarrassment

ties. After days of warnings about the consequences of Moscow's conduct, the Administration toned down its comments, refusing to criticize or take sides.

According to reports here, the Administration's overriding concern now is that the Lithuanian crisis should not come to dominate US-Soviet relations, jeopardizing progress on arms control, democratization in Eastern Europe, the resolution of regional disputes and internal reform in the Soviet Union.

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Berlin alarm over bank chief's terms for currency union

From Ian Murray, Bonn

ALARMED East German leaders predicted a fresh flood of settlers to the West yesterday after the Bundesbank announced plans to bring in currency union fixing the Ostmark at only half the value of the strong Deutschmark.

The bank, which was deeply unhappy when it was told by Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, in February to mastermind a quick union between the two currencies, wants to limit the amount of money people can change at parity to just 2,000 marks (£730).

The proposals are as yet no more than that, but since they already have the backing of Herr Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, they stand the strongest possibility of being agreed by the Government. The fact that a poll published today by the news magazine *Der Spiegel*, shows that 60 per cent of West Germans do not want to see a one-for-one exchange rate is sure to give the Government even more determination to implement an idea which is already prompting strong criticism in East Germany.

Apart from the domestic political advantages Herr Kohl will expect from following the Bundesbank advice, the economic arguments being put forward are difficult for him to ignore. The bank argues that German unity is being purchased with the Deutschmark and that its strength would be undermined by a parity exchange rate. Without a strong Deutschmark, in essence, there can be no German unity.

Herr Waigel has already said that the idea will have a

positive effect on the purchasing power of East Germans and on improving productivity. He will be urging the Cabinet to approve the idea.

Herr Otto Pöhl, the president of the Bundesbank, has never made any secret of the fact that he considers early currency union may make political sense, although he believes it is economically unwise. He is unlikely to agree to any significant changes in the proposals.

Herr Kohl tried to reassure East Germans that there would be currency union and a strong social security net in place by the summer. There was, he said in a radio interview, no ground for anyone to have any worries. The elderly would be paid their pensions and could be sure that West Germany would look after them.

In an interview with the magazine *Bunte*, Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the leader of West Germany's opposition Social Democrats (SPD), tried to raise fears in voters of both Germanies. The timetable for currency union by the summer was too short, given that the necessary legislation had to be passed through the Bundestag. The Bonn Government would have to increase taxes to finance currency union and reunification.

Herr Kohl, who said during the East German election campaign that he had strong sympathy for East German savers and who said in one speech that they could expect a one-for-one conversion rate, never actually promised that they would receive it for

everything, even though there is no doubt that this was the impression that was created. It greatly helped the right-wing Alliance for Germany under the Christian Democrats (CDU) he formed to win 48 per cent of the vote.

As the bank sees it, however, a one-for-one exchange rate just for savings would put an exorbitant price on the operation. With 177,000 million Ostmarks on deposit, the bill of a parity exchange would have put so much cash into the system that inflation would have quickly followed. The bank's ideas would cost at most a "mere" DM 32,000 million (£11,519 million).

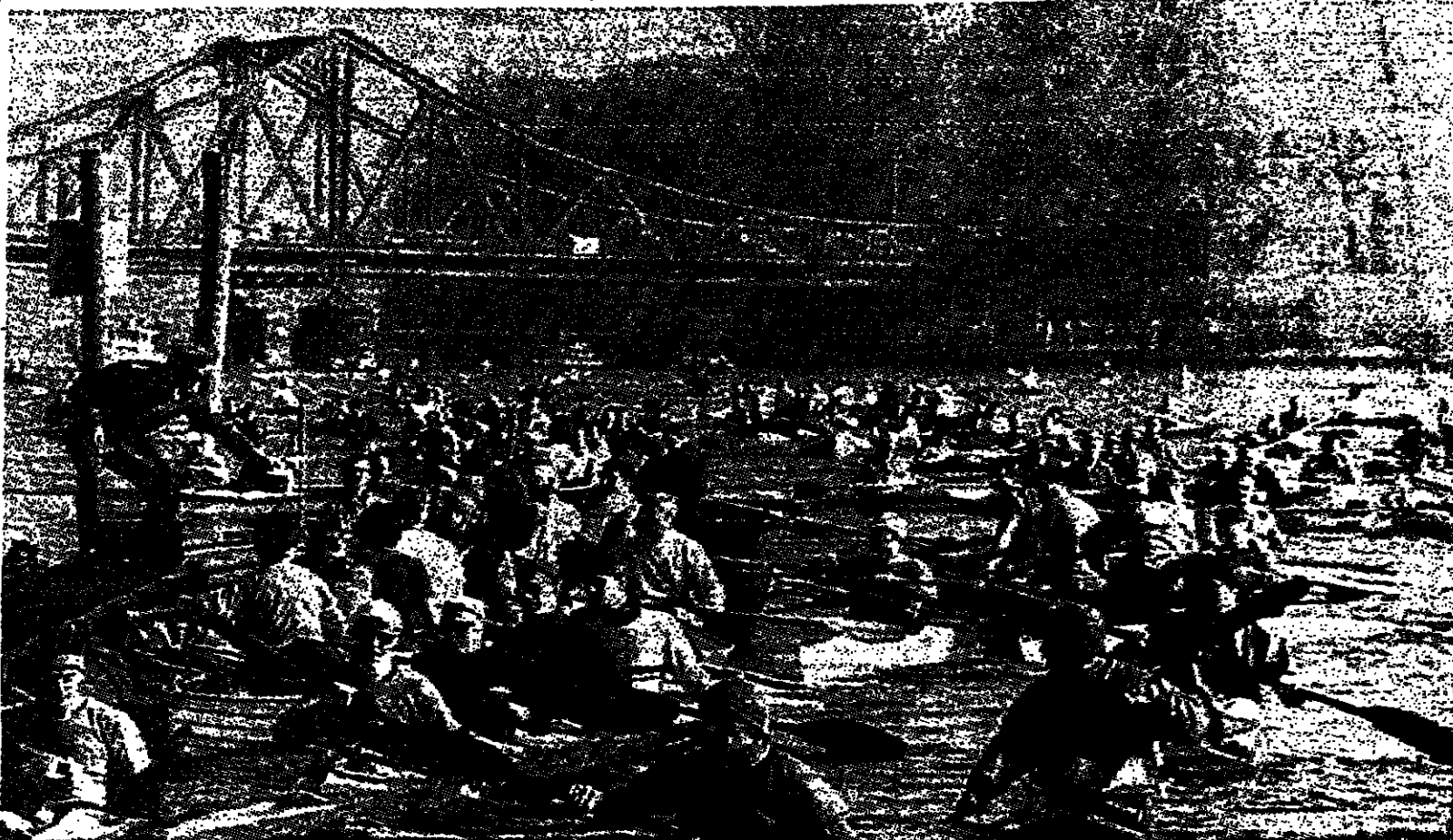
However, disillusionment now threatens to restart the wholesale exodus from East Germany. The CDU in the East is already voicing its concern that it will lose massive support when the East German local elections are held on May 6.

Herr Hans Modrow, the caretaker Prime Minister, says in an interview with *Bild* today that the proposal will cause "great distress to our citizens". It ran counter to Herr Kohl's election promises, he says, and those promises alone were behind the CDU's election success.

The East German liberal parties feel aggrieved. Their spokesman, Herr Joachim Linstedt, said in East Berlin that a two-to-one exchange rate was a breach of Herr Kohl's election promises and there could be no question of unity discussions going ahead on this basis.

Ostmark rate, page 25

Germans paddle across the last frontier



Thousands of Berliners from the eastern and western halves of the city mingling in their craft on the first day without border-marker buoys on the river Havel. The Glienicke Bridge in the background is where the Cold War spy exchanges used to take place between East and West

Exchange rate unites rivals

From Ian Murray, Bonn

LEADERS of the main East German parties last night appeared ready to form a coalition to create a common front against West German proposals to make Ostmarks worth only half the value of Deutschmarks when currency union is introduced.

Two weeks after the election, the Christian Democrats are still trying to form a grand coalition with the Social Democrats in order to have a large enough majority in the Volkskammer to make

constitutional changes. When party negotiators met in East Berlin yesterday for a second round of talks on a possible coalition, spokesmen said the proposed exchange rate gave them common cause.

Herr Markus Meckel, the acting party chairman of the Social Democrats, and Herr Martin Kirchner, the Christian Democrat general secretary, said that both parties could agree a position on the exchange question which would be the basis of a

coalition agreement. They expected it would be possible to form a government in the coming week.

Herr Meckel said a one-for-one exchange rate was a basic part of his party's strategy and insisted that it must cover wages, savings and social security payments, especially pensions. Herr Kirchner said: "It cannot be suggested that our point of view is contrary."

The leaders of both parties will be back in charge of negotiations from today, having stepped aside while allegations of involvement with the Stasi secret police were investigated. After studying Stasi files compiled on them they are confident there is nothing in them that shows they were informers.

The main difficulty in forming the coalition is whether or not the German Social Union, which joined the Christian Democrats in the Alliance for Germany, should be part of it. The Social Democrats still say they will not sit with the Social Union.

Aerial blitz by France on rabies

Paris Helicopters take to French skies today to bomb forests and fields with fish-scented rabies vaccine in an offensive aimed at wiping out the disease in Europe's most dangerous carrier, the red fox. Hundreds of scientists and technicians on the ground will complement the helicopters in the £1.6 million campaign, France's largest against rabies. Vaccination by ground and air already has cut deeply into epidemics among foxes in neighbouring Switzerland, West Germany and The Netherlands, experts say, leaving France as the rabies centre of western Europe. (AP)

Mending fences

Señor Domingo Cavallo is to make the first visit to Britain by an Argentine Foreign Minister since the 1982 Falklands war on April 9. On Saturday Britain lifted the 150-mile Falklands Protection Zone.

Reporter held

Cairo - Sudan has arrested Alfred Taban, a Sudanese journalist who works as a part-time correspondent for Reuters and the BBC, five days after Hamza Hendawi, Reuters' Sudan correspondent, was released after four days in detention. (Reuters)

By the right

Seville - Partido Popular, the main Spanish right-wing opposition party, has chosen Señor Jose Maria Aznar aged 37, as its new leader in a drive to shift to the centre and seize power from the Socialists. (Reuters)

Early flight

Cape Canaveral - The launch of the shuttle Discovery carrying the \$1.3 billion Hubble space telescope, an instrument which could revolutionise astronomy, has been moved forward two days to April 10. (Reuters)

Shelling stops

West Beirut - A ceasefire agreement has halted two days of shelling and fighting between rival Christian forces in mountains north-east of Beirut that has killed 53 people.

Saving the bull

Madrid - The Canary Islands regional parliament is to debate a proposed law banning bull-and-cock-fighting.

Bucharest crowd in protest march

From Tim Judah, Bucharest

IF the Romanian Government has been hoping that beautiful spring weather would keep Bucharest's political activists off the streets yesterday, then they were to be disappointed. Some 3,000 people marched across the capital in the largest demonstration of anti-government feeling in six weeks.

The protests began at a meeting organized by Fratie, Romania's new independent trade union federation. The ruling National Salvation Front was accused of being a "Front for the Salvation of Neo-communists".

Mr Stilian Tanase, a member of the independent Group for Social Dialogue said that he did not believe that the May 20 elections would be free and fair. "Technically they'll be free" he said, "But in fact there's a lot of manipulation specially by Romanian television."

The crowd moved off to the government headquarters in Victory Square where 18 armoured personnel carriers, which were parked by the building, were started up by soldiers and formed into a barrier. The crowd began shouting: "Who was shooting at us on the 16 and 22 of December?" - a reference to an increasing belief that the Army has more blood on its hands than the Government cares to admit. Among the crowd's usual chants of "Down with Communism" and "The Front is the KGB" they also shouted: "Iliescu and

Roman are from Satan's family" - President Iliescu and Mr Petre Roman, the Prime Minister.

The crowd also introduced a new slogan: "Where are the Irish?" (The only television film of the recent violence in Tighu Mures was made by an Irish television crew). By 3 pm most of the crowd had drifted off. The weekend saw the beginning of campaigning for the Presidential - as opposed to the Parliamentary - elections. President Iliescu made an appearance at a church service which was to commemorate the dead of the revolution 100 days after it began. There he was embraced by clergymen and had his face stroked by an elderly woman.

Last Friday Mr Corneliu Coposu, the lacklustre leader of the National Peasant Party declared that he would not run for President. Then on Saturday Mr Radu Ciampanu claimed that he had been asked by the National Liberal Party to present himself as a candidate. He said that negotiations were continuing between the three largest opposition parties with a view to forming an alliance - or at least a non-aggression pact - for the parliamentary elections.

This week will see more declarations for the presidency. However the only key factor that remains to be seen is whether the National Peasant Party will decide to run a candidate against Ciampanu - thus splitting the opposition vote. It is also possible that the National Peasant Party might endorse "the independent", generally taken to mean Mr Ion Ratiu the president of the World Union of Free Romanians, who returned recently from 50 years in exile and has declared that his only wish is to "serve Romania".

In an interview with *The Times* he gave a tearful "no comment" when asked if he had negotiated with Mr Coposu on Saturday. Both men had been attending the funeral of Mr Coposu's sister.

If Mr Ratiu is chosen to run as a presidential candidate it will be a campaign rich in irony. In 1984 Mr Ratiu opposed Mr Ciampanu, who was also in exile at that time, for the leadership of the World Union of Free Romanians.



Mr Ciampanu announcing his candidacy

Pressure grows for Hungary coalition

Budapest HUNGARY'S centre-right Democratic Forum party and the liberal Free Democrats face mounting pressure to form a coalition amid fears that the country could be plunged into a crisis without such an alliance.

The two parties emerged as the biggest groups in the first round of last month's general election, but initially vowed not to join forces in a coalition.

On Saturday, however, Mr Jozsef Antall, the Democratic Forum leader, and Mr Janos Kis, of the Alliance of Free Democrats, did not rule out a coalition between the two parties despite their differences over economic and foreign policy.

The Democrats want a speedy transition to a free market economy, but Forum prefers a more gradual transition. The Democrats want Hungary to leave the Warsaw Pact, while the Forum has taken a more cautious, wait-and-see position.

The conservative Smallholders' Party, which came third in the first-round vote, has pledged support for the Forum, "improving its chances of forming a coalition government without the Free Democrats after the run-off election next Sunday."

But two Smallholders' leaders later said the Forum and the Democrats should form a coalition government to avert a political crisis.

If the two big parties cannot agree there will be continuous squabbling in parliament and within two years the Government will be unable to rule the country, Mr Tivadar Palkay, the Smallholders' honorary chairman, said on Hungarian television on Saturday.

The Forum narrowly won the first round of Hungary's first free elections since 1947, taking 24.7 per cent of the March 25 vote, with the Democrats close on its heels with 21.3 per cent. The Smallholders, which wants to return land confiscated by the communists to its former owners, took 11.7 per cent.

The party was expected to hammer out a compromise in a meeting expected to decide which candidates to back in the run-off. (AP)

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Mengistu plays democracy card to save his skin

Civil war, famine and pressure from events in East Europe have led President Mengistu of Ethiopia to initiate a reform programme. Rosemary Richter examines the extent of the Ethiopian leader's conversion

A STORY used to circulate in Addis Ababa that, at the height of the Red Terror in 1978 through which the then Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam tightened his grip on the country, a large group of university students was shot.

When their mothers and other relatives dared to protest, they were jailed. Colonel Mengistu went to the jail, listened to them, ordered the soldiers responsible shot — and kept the relatives behind bars.

The story conveys something of the methods of the man who joined the 1974 revolution as a young artillery major and, once Emperor Haile Selassie was overthrown, shot his way to the top, annihilating in the process not only rivals but perhaps 12,000 of the revolution's children.

This month, another generation of students "danced through the streets of Addis Ababa, celebrating the dawn of political freedom — carrying pro-government placards. They may escape the same fate, but if they do it will not be thanks to the love of liberty of President Mengistu, but because he has been forced to play the democracy card to fight his way out of his worst corner yet. He has been perfectly candid that his apparent conversion to political pluralism, after 15 years of frog-marching Ethiopia's wretched masses towards the Marxist nirvana, is necessary to ensure political survival.

No African leader has explained ideology more ardently, but it was President Mengistu's conviction of the usefulness of Marxism-Leninism as a means of absolute rule, rather than any dedication to pure theory, which was expressed in the giant billboards featuring his portrait alongside those of Lenin, Engels and Marx.

"Democratic centralism" and the class struggle were doctrines tailor-made for preserving the "integrity" of the Ethiopian empire, the cause for which President Mengistu has spent two thirds of the national budget, press-ganged children and women into sub-Saharan Africa's largest army — and on which, even with the enemy at the gates, he still

refuses to admit defeat. The hammer-and-sickle insignia and the socialist slogans may now quietly be painted out, the Marxist-Leninist Workers' Party of Ethiopia be renamed the Democratic Unity Party (all ideologies welcome) and — just possibly — other parties suddenly be deemed acceptable. But when the President says, as he did last month, that "Ethiopia must adapt or perish", there is no reason to suppose that he does not, now as always, refer to himself.

Nor is it likely that his promises of regional autonomy mean that he seriously intends to relinquish the grip of the Amharas, Ethiopia's imperial ruling nation, over the restive Oromos, Eritreans, Tigreans, Somalis and other "subject races" — all of which, in one of the revolution's many hollow pledges, were promised equal rights by the Dergue in 1974. They have been greeted by the rebels with some derision.

Rebel forces have wrested control of most of Tigre and Eritrea from the demoralized army, which seems, after last year's brutal purges of the general command, incapable of effective counter-attack, and have seized and held the strategic port of Massawa. Tigrean troops are making gains in the Amhara heartlands of Gondar, Wollo and Shoa, and moving steadily towards the capital, Addis Ababa. Between four and five million peasants are at risk of starvation, many of them behind rebel lines. Ethiopia's Cuban allies have gone home, and the arms agreement with the Soviet Union, without which President Mengistu has no hope of holding Ethiopia's centrifugal empire together by force, runs out next year and may not be renewed.

President Mengistu may even see disquieting parallels between the present and the circumstances surrounding the "step-by-step" revolution of 1974. The catalysts for Haile Selassie's overthrow were a bitter famine, a disillusioned officer class, and the discontent of overtaxed peasants without title to land. Famine again stalks the land. The military is divided, its officers sick of purges and its conscripts weary of fighting unwinnable civil wars. The

peasantry has been alienated by the combination of crippling taxes, forced resettlement and the programme of agricultural collectivization known as "villagization".

In 1974, it took nine months from the first manifestation of resistance to depose the Lion of Judah. It is now 10 months since an attempted coup — the most serious yet, supported as it was by a third of the general command — was ended only by executing 18 military commanders, including the army Chief of Staff, the head of the air force and the commander of the Northern Army, and the arrest of 200 of the country's most senior civilian and military officials.

Haile Selassie enjoyed American support to the last. President Mengistu, by contrast, is under formidable pressure to change his ways from his principal foreign backer, the Soviet Union. Thoroughly out of patience with its embarrassing ally, Moscow is insisting on a political settlement of the civil war, is urging President Mengistu to meet Western conditions for economic aid, and is likely to cut off arms supplies next year.

The introduction of democracy and the free market reforms President Mengistu has also promised would imply, if genuine, such risks that, even in a man so adept at moulding necessity to his advantage, scepticism is inevitable. Promises have been made before.

In 1980 President Mengistu admitted that revolutionary economics had produced severe economic hardship, high inflation, falling production and high unemployment. He introduced a law to permit joint ventures and lure in foreign capital.

The fact that another joint venture law was promulgated last August reveals how little the first meant, and Westerners who believed that the revolution was moderating were cruelly shocked by subsequent events.

In 1985, at the height of a severe famine, the Government announced plans to resettle 1.5 million "volunteers" (some of whom were forced at gunpoint on to



When President Mengistu says his country must "adapt or perish", he candidly admits his conversion to pluralism is necessary to ensure his political survival

lorries and Soviet troop-carriers) from Ethiopia's arid highlands on more fertile land — a policy justified by economics which happened to uproot potential rebels to areas where they could be controlled. And in a single year, between 1986 and 1987, eight million more peasants were driven from their farmhouses into state communes under a parallel "villagization" programme — a crash scheme, aimed to shift 20 million in all, to collectivized agriculture in the name of providing better health and education.

Immense suffering and economic disaster were the predictable consequences: GNP fell by more than 2 per cent in 1988. President Mengistu then announced that state collective farming was a failure, that output had suffered from "villagization",

that peasants needed better incentives and that "the basic issue" was how to involve the private sector in "national reconstruction". Six months later, he announced that 2 million more peasants were to be "regrouped".

Political change has been similarly superficial. The transformation of Ethiopia from a military dictatorship into a civilian republic in September, 1987, was celebrated by a military parade. It was appropriate: the military Dergue simply changed uniforms, and President Mengistu used the occasion to concentrate even more power in his hands.

It would be a brave man who emerged to head the political opposition, and a rash peasant who insisted on his new right to grow what he wants and name his price to a

buyer. It is, after all, only two years since President Mengistu executed officers who dared to ask for leave for their troops — an event followed by the defection of thousands of soldiers. It is six months since 50,000 people were forced at gunpoint from their homes by night to attend a rally in Revolution Square at which President Mengistu exhorted the masses to crush all "traitors". And it is less than a month since Ethiopian forces took their revenge for the capture of Massawa by bombing emergency food aid dumps.

President Mengistu has plenty of ways to keep "democracy" within limits. The apparatus of terror is still in place, from the secret police system and networks of informers designed by the East German Stasi, to the *kebeles* — the neighbourhood committees which control food rations, dispense "revolutionary justice" and, in the countryside, run the communes. Thousands are still in jail for their political beliefs, or simply by virtue of their ethnic origins.

The scale of Ethiopia's economic collapse is such that market-based reforms could, just possibly, go ahead this time. But peace, and the introduction of democracy, will almost certainly wait the next military coup.

The Machete of Africa may see Binan wood approaching, but his latest manoeuvres are dictated by his determination, against increasing odds, to "stay the course".

PLO divided over calls for armed attacks

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

WITH time running out for Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour Party leader, in his attempts to form a left-wing government and salvage the peace process, signs emerged at the weekend of deep divisions among radical Palestinian activists, who want to abandon diplomacy and wage an all-out "offensive" against Israeli rule in the occupied territories.

Palestinian sources said the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of the four factions which have hitherto buried their differences to form the "national unified leadership of the uprising", was on the verge of breaking away from the unified command and engaging in "armed struggle", with the backing of Syria.

The success of the Palestinian uprising, or *intifada*, in the eyes of world opinion has largely rested on its avoidance of armed violence. Palestinian moderates have argued that images of armed Israeli troops confronting Arab youths throwing stones has been an effective propaganda weapon in the struggle to force Israel to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But yesterday, Mr Radwan Abu Ayyash, head of the Arab journalists union in East Jerusalem and a noted supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said the *intifada* leadership was "in a mess". He said the collapse of the US-sponsored peace process after a year of diplomacy, because of the breakdown of the Likud-Labour coalition in Israel, had caused profound pessimism among many Palestinians.

The PFLP, which is backed by Syria, argues that the planned Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo which were at the heart of proposals formulated by Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, were clearly a mirage. In under-

ground leaflets and wall graffiti which appeared in West Bank and Gaza towns at the weekend, both the PFLP and the ultra-hardline Islamic fundamentalist movement, Hamas, openly challenged the moderate line taken by mainstream PLO factions.

Mr Peres focused his coalition negotiations at the weekend on five dissident Liberal members of the Likud Party, as well as on the powerful religious parties. But Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader and caretaker Prime Minister, also courted the religious groups, promising to tighten up laws governing public entertainment and observance of the Sabbath.

Last week, Rabbi Eliezer Schach, a leading spiritual authority appeared to back Likud while criticizing Labour and kibbutz members for their supposed ignorance of Judaism.

But in a broadcast on Israeli radio at the weekend, President Herzog said many *kibbutzniks*, "with their furrowed faces and calloused hands", had fought to defend the Jewish state whereas those who studied the Torah in the synagogues had "never heard the din of battle".

Labour sources said that if Mr Peres did not succeed in forming a government by the time the Jewish Passover festival begins in a week's time, Mr Yitzhak Rabin might be asked to try to form a coalition. Mr Rabin, who has also been critical of the religious parties, and is himself a distinguished former general, is seen as a hawkish Labour figure who commands support on both right and left.

He was Defence Minister in the National Unity coalition before its recent collapse, and was the first to advocate Palestinian elections and Israeli-Palestinian talks as a way of ending the *intifada*.

Swiss check up on Big Brother

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

MORE than 300,000 Swiss citizens think Big Brother has been watching them and have applied to see confidential police files.

There was a last-minute rush to get applications in the post before the March 31 deadline.

The Federal Public Prosecutor's office in Bern has 900,000 names on index cards and files — at least half on foreigners.

With 30 officials assigned to dealing with the sacks of mail, applicants who really do not have the distinction of a file are to be informed of this by the end of next month.

For those who have the aim at least to enable them to scrutinize what the Bundespolizei has on, or against, them by the end of the year.

However access for persons whose mail was being opened or their phones tapped may be "limited".

This is the sequel to the discovery by a parliamentary investigating commission of the existence of those thousands of files, the product of

years of methodical and zealous state snooping.

Even successive ministers of justice, including the present incumbent, Mr Arnold Koller, had been largely ignorant of the extent of surveillance with the system solemnly recording such minutiae as attendance at a Chinese embassy reception to see a film on pandas.

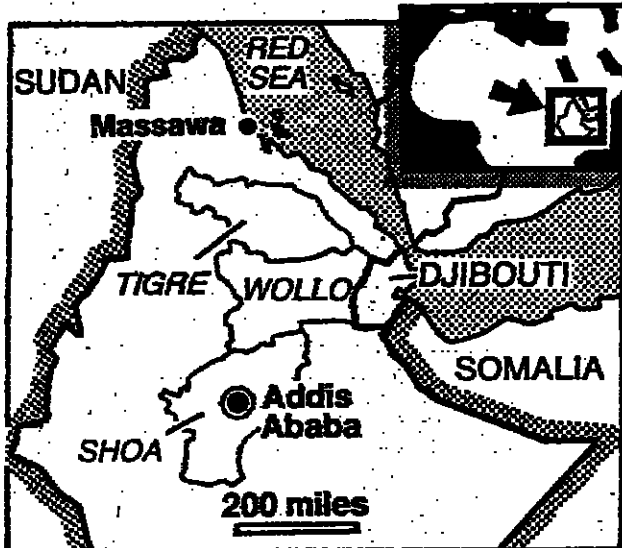
This all started in the early 1950s when the spectre of communism loomed large in many Swiss minds.

Once established with its force of diligent officials, the system became self-perpetuating, the means gradually predominating over the end to which they were directed.

Since the Government's year-end decision to call a halt to paranoia the Swiss media have been revelling in exposing absurdities perpetrated by over-diligent officials whose jobs depended on their filling up more files.

On being told he had no file, the Defence Minister, Mr Kaspar Villiger, reportedly said: "It's rather as though I were a non-person."

Ethiopian rebels claim big gains



ETHIOPIAN rebels have recaptured ground lost earlier this year to government troops and have advanced to within 100 miles of Addis Ababa, the closest they have got to the capital, according to rebel radio broadcasts yesterday.

The Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said its forces had retaken parts of southern Wollo and Shoa provinces and advanced to the town of Alem Ketemane, the most southerly point they had reached since their rebellion began in 1974.

There was no immediate confirmation from independent sources of the rebels' advance but their leader, Mr

In a new setback for the Ethiopian Government, rebels claim to have gained ground to the north of Addis Ababa. Michael Knipe reports

Meles Zenawi, was quoted as saying it put them in a stronger position than ever. The rebels launched its offensive 10 days ago, three days after a third round of preliminary peace talks began in Rome between the TPLF and the Government. The talks dealt with the agenda and composition of delegations for full-scale peace negotiations but collapsed on Thursday.

Rebel radio, monitored by the BBC, said heavy losses were inflicted on government forces during the fighting, with a total of 10 army brigades "annihilated". It made no mention of rebel losses.

The TPLF is led by Marxist-Leninists who say their aim is to oust President Mengistu and to institute a broader based, more democratic administration. They operate in alliance with a smaller group, the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement.

The TPLF overran the whole of the northern province of Tigre a year ago and in August began a steady advance south towards Addis Ababa. They seized large areas of Gondar and Wollo provinces and in December penetrated the central province of Shoa, where the capital is situated.

But in December the Government counter-attacked, pushing the TPLF out of a handful of towns in Shoa and attacking its front line in Wollo and Gondar.

The other main rebel movement, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, meanwhile has captured the Red Sea port of Massawa, isolating more than 100,000 Government troops in an enclave that can only be supplied by air.

The EPLF regards the capture of Massawa as the beginning of the end for the Addis Ababa Government. Last week the front said it would not attend a third round of peace talks, which had been tentatively scheduled for April 3 in Nairobi, unless the United Nations did too. The EPLF is insisting on UN

participation because Eritrea was under a UN mandate when it was federated with Ethiopia in 1952 before being unilaterally merged with Ethiopia 10 years later.

Ethiopian officials said two weeks ago that the Government would open a third round of preliminary peace talks with the EPLF under the chairmanship of Mr Jimmy Carter, the former US President, and Mr Julius Nyerere, the former President of Tanzania, but has refused so far to extend an invitation to the UN to attend the negotiations.

Since the fall of Massawa, Soviet transport aircraft in the markings of the national airline Aeroflot no longer fly to Eritrea, and Moscow has said that it withdrew the last of its military advisers from the war zone in February.

According to Eastern European diplomatic sources in Addis Ababa, the number of Soviet military advisers in Ethiopia has fallen from 1,500 to 600 and Soviet officials are said to be insisting that President Mengistu finds a peaceful solution.

The latest military activity is not believed to have affected the famine relief operation spearheaded by the Joint Relief Partnership, which has entailed sending convoys of food from government-controlled Port Assab into rebel-held territory in Tigre and Eritrea.

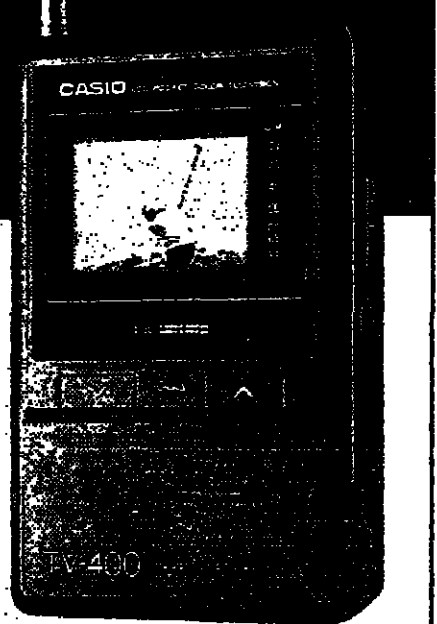
Since March 20, daily lorry convoys have been taking food from Dessie, the Wollo provincial capital, crossing military lines 20 miles to the north and delivering as far as Kobo, a town in TPLF hands 80 miles from Dessie.

Mr Francis Stephanos, a famine relief co-ordinator, said there was sufficient food for distribution to start shortly in selected towns further north but he appealed for the international community for 100 new lorries. There are estimated to be at least a million famine victims in the rebel-held regions of Wollo and Tigre.

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TIMES DIARY

SHERIDAN MORLEY

We have not heard the last of Luke Rittner. The man who started out meaning to be an actor is now thinking hard about returning to theatre administration in the commercial sector, failing that, Edinburgh and other festivals will be looking at his talents in the light of what he once did for Bath. Rittner has yet to give his account of his resignation as Arts Council secretary-general; the deal seems to be that Peter Palumbo, the chairman, can put his case publicly while Rittner has to allow a decent period to elapse. Then, however, we shall doubtless get the memoirs. In an Arts Council tradition established by Charles Osborne, who entitled his book *Giving It Away*, Rittner was given a standing ovation at his farewell press conference: that at least must have taken him back to his acting aspirations.

More questions are raised than answered by the success of *Sunday in the Park at the Lytton*, where an unprecedented 10-week run without interruption is rapidly selling out. If it is right, and I believe it is, to elevate Stephen Sondheim to the status of Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams as a major American dramatist on the leading London stage — even to dedicate an entire shop in the



Sondheim: among the greats

National foyer to his T-shirts and other artefacts, an honour neither of the others has enjoyed — then it must also be right to define some sort of National Theatre policy on musicals themselves.

Apart from the triumphant revival of *Gypsy* and *Dolls* a decade ago (the work of the current NT director, Richard Eyre) and Peter Hall's catastrophic *Jean Seberg*, the National has not been exactly famous for its musicals, though *Gypsy* and *Dolls* was one of the first projects ever announced for it by Laurence Olivier, who long planned to play Nathan Detroit. The time has surely come for a National plan on musicals new and old, preferably in collaboration with a commercial management which could transfer the best to the West End to recoup their costs. Even with 10 uninterrupted weeks, the National will have a hard time making *Sunday in the Park* profitable, unless it is brought back in the autumn.

● In the current panicky world of New York books and bookmen, whole publishing houses are up for auction — among them Weidenfeld, the result of merging Grove Press with Lord Weidenfeld's new American house. What a pleasant role reversal it would be in Britain to have authors bidding for publishing companies.

Michael Codron, the most distinguished producer in the commercial West End, has a season which would be the envy of either the RSC or the NT: having opened the new Alan Ayckbourn at the Globe, he now goes straight on to the new Michael Frayn, *Look, Look*. Described by Frayn himself as a companion-piece to his triumphant backstage *Noises Off*, this one is about, in his words, "the other half of the great confrontation which constitutes live theatre... the audience itself. They arrive as individuals and gradually become one single corporate creature."

After *Look, Look* opens next week at the Aldwych, with a cast headed by Stephen Fry and Robin Bailey, Codron moves on to May



Codron: hat-trick of hits?

to the new Simon Gray, *Hidden Laughter*, with a cast led by Felicity Kendal and Peter Barkworth. Neither will say what it is about, though the casting again hints at Codron's gift for putting TV comedy stars into more demanding material.

Next Sunday's Olivier Awards at the Dominion, the first since the death of the man who gave them their name, will also be notable for the absence of Andrew Lloyd Webber, whose *Aspects of Love* has remarkably failed to collect even a single nomination from the judges. Lloyd Webber will not, however, be sulking in his tent: he will be on Broadway, where the original cast of *Aspects* opens that night to some of the greatest advance bookings in American theatre history. That should be some consolation for the lack of a Larry.

When the West End of London is the scene of riot and destruction, it is not hard to sense a great social catastrophe. All open violence touches a sensitive public nerve, but some places are more sensitive indicators than others of the struggle for public order. On this scale of sensitivity, Trafalgar Square is the country's most important public space.

A century has passed since the last great street battle there, in 1887. That is quite a long time. But most people are likely to be surprised to learn that such fierce conflicts happened in the middle of the high Victorian period. Surely that was the apogee of the "age of equisopise"? That surprise tells us a lot about the way public order is manufactured.

It would be true to suggest that public order is purely imaginary, but it is always to some extent imagined. The public memory of violent disorder is short. Each generation seems to be blessed with a kind of amnesia which allows it to paint for itself a picture of a golden age of peace and security — usually about 30 years before, distant enough to be dimly remembered, but recent enough to be plausible.

The demand for order is an insistent force in civilized society; the reason it is not always achieved is that the demand

Charles Townshend puts the poll tax riots in a historical context

Order: a thin dividing line

is both natural and artificial. Order is plainly natural, and an essential feature of all human society. But the demands for order, and the expectation of civil peace, come only with political sophistication.

England has manufactured for itself a potent myth of civil peace. The English see themselves, and have long done so, as a law-abiding, orderly people. The "English way" in public affairs is moderate, orderly, peaceful. Disorder and violence are alien, pathological, the work of "hooligans" — a capacious term which has become a staple currency since it was coined at the beginning of the century — if not of outright anarchists or revolutionaries. Violence above all is unconstitutional, negative, subversive of law and order, in a word, un-English. Foreigners, we add, have not always seen it this way.

Standing back from this self-image, we can see fairly clearly when the modern idea of order was put together. Until the mid-

19th century, English public order was to an astonishing extent self-imposed. As a result it was pretty erratic. The apparatus of state control was exiguous, at least at ground level on a day-to-day basis. Local police forces were tiny and incompetent.

Mobs periodically swept through country towns in protest against taxes, shortages, or militia service. More often crowds assembled to take sides in elections or to take part in festivals. Order was effectively negotiated between magistrates and crowds, with occasional interventions by the Army under the Riot Act when things got out of hand. It was a commonplace to say that the English were so hostile to the idea of the state that they preferred violence to the threat posed by a professional police.

When the professional police force was finally established in London in 1830 and in the provinces in 1856, it did not immediately create a police state. But it did redefine public order. Besides — and usually before —

fighting crime, the new police took control of public spaces and tightened their grip on the tradition of public assembly. The Trafalgar Square battles in 1887 were a response.

The reaction of the police showed the way to the future: a blanket ban on public demonstrations in London for six years. The Home Secretary at the time, a Conservative, believed that the police had over-reacted. For some time after that there was a tension between the traditional tolerance of the Minister and the new aims of the police, but over the next century demands for absolute public order gradually prevailed. A decisive point in this process was the sense of national discipline asserted in the First World War and repeated in the Second.

As this image of perfect order was built up, disorder came to appear far more dangerous to society than it had been in the past. The social fabric seems more fragile the tighter it is stretched.

In the 1970s it began to come apart at the seams. The Red Lion Square disturbances came as a shock, but soon began to look almost tame as a sequence of disorders culminated in the great inner-city explosions of the early 1980s. At the same time, a constant accompaniment of violent crime — above all mugging — and terrorism amplified the demand for a reassertion of order. Parliamentary committees, Home Office study groups, and White Papers followed. The result was the Public Order Act of 1986.

Yet it is still no easier than it ever was to say what order is or how it can be guaranteed. In the English tradition, order was a state of mind as much as a mode of behaviour. The common law laid down only the vaguest rules about how peace, once broken, was to be restored. Every public assembly contains the possibility of disorder, but the line between an orderly and a disorderly crowd is a fine one, lying to a great extent in the eye of the

beholder. Because the British have been so reluctant to admit that theirs is a society with disorderly tendencies, they have also been unwilling to frame laws which would help the police's response to disorder. At Amritsar in 1919, for instance, Brigadier Dyer ordered his men to open fire because a crowd failed to disperse. The crowd was not disorderly but it posed a threat to public order. Dyer misread that crowd, but no English law could have told him how to read it right.

The first Public Order Act in 1936 made no attempt to define public order as such, and concentrated on the specific problem of fascist meetings and marches. In this it was very English. For 50 years it did duty as the only public order law.

Its replacement is wider in its reach, and has confirmed the long-term trend towards tight police control of the whole public sphere. In common with most official rhetoric in the 1980s it urges the need to restore the traditional responsibility of community. Yet its framers could not have anticipated the impact of the community charge.

Charles Townshend is Professor of Modern History at Keele University and author of Britain's Civil Wars (Faber, 1986).

Road to ruin that is paved with gold

Bernard Levin writes a contract that would make executives accountable for incompetence — instead of rewarding them



ruining banks and other businesses. He is truly on to something. As the result in the NatWest affair shows, for Messrs Green, Green and Plastow, as they left NatWest, picked up, among the three of them, £505,000. History does not record in what proportions they shared the booty, though since all three fell similarly under the lash of the DoT's inspectors, it is reasonable to assume — "all for one and one for all" — that the three musketeers scooped up £168,333 each and drew lots for the odd £1 — or perhaps gave it to Oxfam. (No, it must have been War on Want, which has just gone out of business, two million in the hole.) Nor has Sir Derek Alun-Jones's extraordinary skill at grave-digging gone unrecognized by Ferranti; he has trousered £490,000. I dare say the company was willing to shell out the full half-million, but perhaps Sir Derek pointed out that it might be thought a touch vulgar.

Well, Madam? I know that your Johnny, for all that he is gone sixteen, cannot count up to 20 without taking his socks off, but would that, you must ask yourself, be a handicap in a financial career, at any rate in this country? The goings-on at NatWest and Ferranti suggest strongly that it might be a distinct advantage, and indeed, you would be wise, when you are thinking of sending your young brother Tommy for a job interview, to din into Tommy's head that if he should be asked what twice five makes (it is unlikely that there would be anything more taxing by way of scrutiny), he should say only "Dunno", preferably in a surly tone.

Not long ago, at the annual meeting of a leading British bank (it might even have been NatWest), a shareholder proposed himself for appointment to the board. Naturally, he was given short, though courteous, shrift. But one remark made by the chairman was more illuminating than he might have realized; he explained that the

suggestion could not be entertained because the applicant was not known to any of the members of the board.

Now if it was NatWest that figured in my story, then considering what that institution's conduct over the Blue Arrow affair had led to, it would have done better to put the stranger on the board at once, preferably in the post of chairman, even if he were to reveal as soon as he was installed that he was an inmate of Rampton on his day out.

I do not care whether you call it the Old School Tie or Buggins's Turn or We Must Do Something for Fred; the truth about this country is that it rewards failure. The three NatWest directors who left under a cloud of official rebuke, and the chairman of Ferranti, who left in the sunshine of rectitude and very pleased with himself, were perfect examples of this way of doing things. No doubt this makes British business life much more agreeable, but unfortunately it does not make British business more efficient or successful. Which is more important?

Now, then. Instead of receiving massive payments for presiding over ruin, they should all, in justice, have been escorted to the top floor of their respective buildings and gently but thoroughly defenestrated. (In a different category is Lord Boardman, who accepted a 73 per cent pay rise in the last year of his NatWest chairmanship — that is, the year of the debacle; in his case the fifth floor might suffice.)

Here comes the reply: we had to make those monstrous severance payments because the money had contracts which were legally binding on us; we had no option but to fork out. It is a measure of the depth to which Britain's failure culture has struck root that many of my readers, having agreed with every word I have written up to now, nodded in agreement when I came to the excuse, and murmured "Well, yes — a contract is a contract."

But the contract did not make itself, did it? Was it unthinkable to build into its provisions a clawback against precisely what eventually happened? So far from being admired as exemplars of uprightiness for sticking to a legal bargain, however expensive, those responsible for handing out the contracts in the first place should certainly experience the 18th floor heave-ho alongside the more obvious blunders. Surely it should not be beyond the ability of mighty companies to draw up contracts of engagement which stipulate that, say, culpable negligence, or official condemnation as unfit for a post of responsibility, or the making of a mistake that costs the company millions, will lead not to an exit paved with gold, but to nothing but a vigorous kick in the balance-sheet?

You say they wouldn't sign a contract on those conditions, but would go elsewhere? What a perfectly splendid solution!

Raymond Plant takes issue with the just-deserts theorists

Hardly poor by choice

Just before announcing his retirement as Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Runcie warned of the dangers of Britain becoming a Pharisee society in which the rich and successful took too much pride in their achievements.

British society seems to be growing more judgemental at both ends of the income spectrum. On the one hand there is a strong view that the rich deserve their wealth because they have taken the risks, put in the effort, and have had the confidence to be mobile; furthermore, on this free-market view, self-enrichment benefits everybody, including the poor, through the trickle-down effect: what the rich and meritorious consume today will eventually trickle down to the rest of society.

Along with this view of the high earner's just deserts, there is a growing belief that the poor, or at least the able-bodied among them, may deserve their poverty, since it is not just the consequence of lack of money and resources but, at least in part, of their own choices and a lack of enterprise and initiative.

This was a point made by a number of pundits at the turn of the year when they consulted their crystal balls to see what the new decade had in store. In the view of several, we would discover the undeserving poor and this would put a brake on the welfare state. People would not willingly pay taxes to support the poorer sections of society when their poverty was, as it were, self-inflicted.

This view also found an echo in the response by Lord Jacobovits, as Chief Rabbi, to the Church of England's *Faith in the City* report. For him, its big failing was its neglect of ways in which individuals and communities could help themselves out of poverty and out of the inner-city ghettos. The Jewish community had managed to do this, and he recommended the same sort of values to those in the inner cities today. What was needed, so it seemed, was the remoralization of the poor. Until their attitudes were changed, collective action and resources could play only a secondary role.

So there do seem to be grounds for the claim that we are living in a more judgemental society. The rich deserve their higher incomes; poverty is as much a matter of attitude and lifestyle as it is of the lack of resources.

However, there is a flaw in this free-market philosophy because, as Hayek has argued for 40 years, the market does not reward according to any particular principle, and certainly not desert. The so-called distribution of income and wealth is in fact an unintended consequence of all the millions of individual acts of buying and selling which take place in a market. Indeed, Hayek bemoans the fact that so many defenders of the market (including Mrs Thatcher?) defend it on

the grounds that it rewards merit when it does not. If Hayek is correct, the rich have no reasonable cause for self-congratulation, because their wealth does not reflect any kind of special merit.

The notion that the rich deserve their rewards can be weakened in other ways, too. First of all, many of those who have been most successful have had the benefit of fortunate genetic endowment and family background, for which they can clearly claim no credit. One can only be said to deserve something when one bears the greatest personal responsibility for its achievement. But while personal responsibility has a central role, we should not go over the top about it morally because it is exercised against a background of circumstances over which the individual has had little control and for which he can claim little credit.

Secondly, any complex economy is a system of interdependence. Those with skills can exercise them only against a background of co-operation, and it is important that this background is seen as fair.

If these factors blunt the individualist view of personal responsibility in the case of the rich, so, therefore, they do with the poor. Obviously personal responsibility plays its part, but unfortunately, family background, schooling and genetic endowment are also major contributors. Those who grow up with limited aspirations and with poor role models bear only a limited degree of responsibility for the position they are in.

If both rich and poor bear only limited personal responsibility for their respective positions, it is surely unfair that we should reward success so prodigiously and penalize failure so greatly. The free market is a central institution in a free society but we should get it into moral perspective.

I have commented before in these columns about the resemblance between contemporary political debates and those which took place within Liberalism at the end of the last century. At that time there were strong feelings about the undeserving poor, particularly embodied in the work of the Charity Organisation Society and satirized by Bernard Shaw in *Eliza Doolittle's* father, who drank somewhat more than did the deserving poor. One response to that was made by John Hobson, the social democratic thinker, who described those who believed in the moralizing of the poor as clothed in "the dirty rags of their own righteousness."

This attitude did little for the poor then. We have been around this track before and it is time we learned from it, otherwise political debate about poverty is in danger of reinventing the wheel. The author is Professor of Politics at Southampton University.

You get nowhere unless you ask



MATTHEW PARRIS

knows to drop out at five? Why are there not short-furred and long-furred humans?

And how does frizzy hair know how to frizz, and where? Why

aren't there people whose hair frizzes in patches and grows straight in others, so that the view of their heads would be like an aerial photograph of a landscape of mixed arable farming?

Epidemics worry me, too, as our bus passes a hospital and somebody coughs. Surely the more a communicable disease spreads, the faster becomes its rate of spread — so why didn't everyone finally die of the Black Death, and why haven't I had Hong Kong flu?

And those "Now wash your hands" signs in lavatories: what is the point? You have to touch the tap to turn it off after you have

washed them, don't you? Ten seconds ago you grasped that tap with unwashed hands. So wash them again! And what are the "chapped hands" against which those hot-air dryers that don't work protect? Do you know anyone with chapped hands?

The whole realm of hygiene is, surely, more ritual than real. If the slightest touch were really red-hot with communicable perils, then the precautions we take against their communication would be hopelessly inadequate. In the end, almost everything has indirectly touched almost everything else. Yet we survive. Then there are chimney-

sweeps. The last time I employed one in Derbyshire he drove six miles from Matlock with life van and ladder and spent half the morning making a very thorough job. All for £5. How does this man live? How do lampshade shops on the Old Brompton Road, whose rents must be thousands of pounds per week but which always seem bereft of customers, stay afloat?

And how do you know people are looking at you? One can spot and return a glance across fifty yards, yet the eye-deflection that marks the glance and defines its target is tiny: can you in fact see the pupil of another person's eye, at all, at that distance?

Burning with curiosity, I alight at the Strand. My bus pulls away, taking with it 50 fellow-citizens I may never meet again. I wonder if they knew.

"DRAUGHT Guinness, now available in cans," says the voice from my clock-radio which rouses me each morning. Sometimes I wake up and wonder whether the dream world from which I have just come is more real than the one I now re-enter. Will a little lady pop out of the Guinness tin and pull you a pint on the spot?

And I sit on the number 15 bus, longing to ask the other passengers for their own reaction to this and other questions. Am I blind to the explanations which are obvious to everyone else? Or does each of us travel wrapped in a cocoon of private mystification which he dare not share?

Take, for example, the common aspirin. How can it work? It is supposed to make pain go away. Yet try swallowing one, then pinching yourself. It still

hurts, doesn't it? And you can feel your toes. So how does the aspirin know which, of all the nerves, selectively to mug?

Or aeroplanes. Why don't the wings drop off? The whole of aerodynamics perplexes. Why does a bird's flapping its wings cause it to fly? And how do birds mate? On the wing or on the perch? How I yearn to ask the lady on the seat beside me. And fish — what do fish do? And why do you never see cats making love? And... but, no, we enter a realm in which it would be indecible to tread.

Sex — treated as a branch of engineering rather than literature



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

RIGHTS AND RIOTS

Free speech is never more in danger than when its friends are goaded beyond control by its enemies. So let us all calm down over the undeniably shocking events in central London at the weekend.

Marches, rallies, demonstrations, even carnivals have long been a feature of the political life of the capital. However peaceful in intent, such gatherings have offered to society's violent substratum the cover of crowds and a cause. Police, public and property are thus placed at risk. When risk turns to reality — as it did on Saturday — the call to limit reasonable freedom of speech and assembly can be strong. It must be resisted. Nothing yet justifies the Cabinet's emergency committee in introducing a new public order act or in proscribing, and thus glamorizing, the publicity-seeking fringes of British politics.

So far, so straightforward. Many people now claim to be intent on breaking the law by not paying their poll tax. The reaction to this is simple. Any proclaimed right to civil disobedience implies acceptance of the lawful punishment — accepted by some who refused to pay "nuclear weapons taxes". No such ideological tolerance extends to those who perpetrate mayhem and injury in the cause of defying democratic laws. The one is a private argument between the individual and the state, the other is reckless hooliganism.

Saturday was the latter. Many rallies directed, in essence, at capturing the attention of the London media now lay themselves open to hijacking by such forces, much as do some football matches. In recent years, this has applied to the miners, anti-apartheid groups, students and the Notting Hill carnival. Protests of non-violent innocence by the "organisers" of Saturday's rally, a body calling itself the All-Britain Anti Poll Tax Federation, cut no ice. The past month has seen a clear pattern of similar violence at town halls around the country, orchestrated by supporters of this body.

That the Federation may be in dispute with other socialist and anarchist groups equally girt about with far-left jargon is of no concern. It knew what it was unleashing on London and must take responsibility for it. The Labour MP's whose oratory gave Saturday its chaotic overtone may now claim ignorance of the sinister banners cheering them on. They cannot be that naive.

The anti-poll tax lobby's right to state its case is unarguable. Its demand to state it in the crowded streets of central London, to occupy Whitehall or Parliament Square, or even to act as a magnet for violent elements to pack Trafalgar Square itself, must be open to

question. Such demonstrations that might lead to violence should at very least be confined away from crowded streets in such open spaces as Hyde Park, where the police can adopt a more discreet presence. There may be little new about the London mob. Something new may be needed in order to contain it, including denying them the absolute freedom of London's streets.

Mainstream politicians have already squeezed the disturbance for every drop of political capital. There is, as Chesterton said, nothing like a broken head to call philosophies into question. Mrs Thatcher instantly charged the Labour party with guilt by association. The Labour party responded by accusing the government of bringing trouble on its own head and demanded a debate on inadequate support for the police. Both have delved into the cynical calculus of who gains more from a tragedy for which neither was directly responsible.

Labour clearly loses most in the short term, despite having conducted its opposition to the poll tax with some dignity. Even after Mr Kinnoch's Gorbachov-like struggle against his hard-liners, Labour is vulnerable to the taunt that it cannot hold the left in check. The party is blighted by the corrupt and inefficient administration of many big cities under its control. The past weekend is a reminder of dark forces lurking in Labour's cupboard, including a few MPs taking the party whip.

Whether this disadvantage will remain for long is doubtful. Violence or no violence, "urgent reappraisal" or mere tinkering, the poll tax in its present form is, as Mr Chris Patten tacitly admitted on television yesterday, beyond coherent redemption. All government can realistically do — short of dropping this tax altogether — is reduce the proportion of local spending covered by local revenue, abandon hope of income tax cuts, cap "overspending" councils and, in effect, nationalize most of England's biggest cities.

Political disorder is not justified in a democracy, but the fact of its occurrence should not impede those seeking to reduce the areas of alienation and unfairness on to which it can lead. Civil violence, whatever the underlying excuse, never reflects well on governments. The energy strikes of 1973-74 and the public-sector disputes of 1978-79 suggested a loss of central authority. Violence is its own publicity machine. It is like graffiti on the walls of Parliament, a sign of waning control. The need for Patten's much-trumpeted poll tax reappraisal is no more urgent today than it was last week — and no less urgent either.

MR MUGABE'S VICTORY

Not even his most loyal political ally could describe Mr Robert Mugabe's election victory this weekend as famous. His winning margin (more than four to one in the presidential poll) was clear enough. But nearly half of the electorate stayed at home, which suggests little popular enthusiasm.

This may say as much about his opponent, Mr Edgar Tekere, as it does about Mr Mugabe. Mr Tekere's Zimbabwe Unity Movement won 20 per cent of the vote, better than some observers expected, though this will not be reflected in the new parliament. The conclusion must be that critics of the government were uninspired by the alternative on offer.

Mr Tekere, a former associate of Mr Mugabe, has blamed his failure on violent intimidation and press bias, a complaint that is by no means unfounded. The principal human rights group in Zimbabwe, the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, last week questioned the fairness of the poll, in view of the violence which marred the campaign. For this, it accused Mr Mugabe's Zanu-PF party of being mainly responsible.

Nor is Mr Tekere's second claim unsubstantiated. The Government's control over radio and television and Zanu-PF's influence over the press gave Mr Mugabe a significant advantage. "Aids kills. So does ZUM" was one of the more pithy pro-Mugabe advertisements on television. Press freedom has never been Mr Mugabe's strong suit — except when referring to his southern neighbour, South Africa.

Zimbabwe celebrates a decade of independence later this month. It is known that Mr Mugabe wanted to use the election as a mandate to establish a "one party state". Since the merger between Zanu-PF and its previous rival, Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zapu, the country is already dominated by one party. Mr Mugabe would still like to turn de facto into de jure. While this figured little in the campaign, the outcome was certainly a test of public enthusiasm for Mr Mugabe and his colleagues.

EIGHT MEN IN A BOAT

The sun slanted through the trees on Chiswick Reach. Ducks flapped and splashed across the shining river. There was "laughter, learned of friends, and gentleness in hearts at peace, under an English Heaven". And Oxford won again.

A canvas ahead of the Grand National and the cuckoo, the Boat Race marks the beginning of spring and longer days. Ahead stretch Derby, Wimbledon and Lord's, strawberries, wags' nests and snatched camp holidays in Devon. Putney-to-Mortlake helps steer us into the stream of the seasons.

As a sporting spectacle, however, the Boat Race has dreadful shortcomings. Once upon a time, it neatly split the British nation. Cockney London fought favours in light or dark blue. Those who had never been to Putney, let alone Osbridge, still appeared to care. Most now watch the television sets, pen in hand, awaiting the football scores.

More to the point, the encounter is almost invariably a procession, not a race. Victory goes to the faster boat over the first few hundred yards: as if the first goal won the match and the rest is merely playing for time. This must be the one race in Britain where it is better to watch the start than the finish.

Few would seek to abolish this curious competition. The weather, glorious on Saturday, usually calls for duffel coats, Guernsey sweaters and thick scarves and true British grit. But the public and its sponsors must surely expect more of the unpredictable excitement normally associated with great sporting contests. So here are suggestions.

A possibility is to limit the weights of crews, thus working towards a more perfect balance of strength. Weight may not equate with power or skill — any more than it does in boxing — but in boxing, weight clearly has some effect on the outcome, as Oxford have persistently shown.

Another innovation might be a third boat. Thames lightermen could present a formidable challenge, or perhaps other British universities could compete. Alternatively, there might be artificial canyons to exaggerate the sinuous Thames bank and give the coxing less monotony after the initial, crucial burst.

As for helping Cambridge to overcome its manifest inferiority, the only sensible proposal is for a handicap. Lead weights in the Oxford boat, perhaps? Or ten yards advantage to Cambridge for each beefy Oxford American? Or just let Cambridge start at Hammersmith — and see when Oxford catches them?

Soviet Union and Lithuania

From the Right Reverend Mervyn Stockwood

Sir, The Soviet Ambassador does little service to his cause by misrepresenting the facts in his letter (March 29) on the current crisis in Lithuania.

As a member of my family found his wife in the Baltic states, and her family escaped from the terror that followed the Stalin-Hitler pact, I have some knowledge of the situation.

Here are the facts on which the ambassador might like to comment: 1. The Baltic states were seized by force, just as our Channel Islands were seized by Hitler. Whereas the latter obtained their freedom at the end of the war, the former did not. Stalin and his successors held on to what they had illegally obtained.

2. Most countries in the West have refused to recognise this act of brutal aggrandizement and therefore do not regard the Baltic republics as part of the Soviet Union, but as occupied territory.

3. The Soviet occupation, like the Nazi occupation, has been characterized by appalling crimes against humanity — murder, concentration camps and the compulsory transference of populations.

4. Shortly before I resigned from the bishopric of Southwark in 1980 I went on a parliamentary mission to the Soviet Union as a member of the House of Lords. We had two sessions at the Kremlin and we were invited to ask questions. Having been told that the Baltic states had voluntarily requested to be incorporated into the Soviet Union, I remarked: "Would you be so kind as to give me the date on which this request was made?"

The minister of the Soviet Foreign Office who was in attendance said he would make enquiries and let me know. I still await an answer.

Yours sincerely,

MERVYN STOCKWOOD,

15 Sydney Buildings,

Bath, Avon.

March 29.

From Mr D. G. A. Sanders

Sir, The Ambassador of the USSR's reasoned letter raises the question of whether a state which (with or without the collusion of another state) wrongfully annexes one or more of its neighbours has a right to impose its own constitutional rules for granting freedom to a state it has annexed, even if the annexation occurred over half a century ago.

This in turn raises the wider question of how far back in history a nation is entitled to go to claim redress for asserted wrongs of the past. Is there not a need for a statute of limitation in international law to clarify the many situations of this nature which come to mind?

Yours truly,

D. G. A. SANDERS,

Potters, Worth,

West Sussex.

March 29.

From Mr Brian Crozier

Sir, In his letter of March 29 the Soviet Ambassador says that the actions of "the president" of Lithuania in declaring his country's independence "are in direct contradiction with the Constitution of the USSR".

In full article 72 of the Soviet Constitution reads: "Each Union Republic shall retain the right freely to secede from the USSR."

Yours very truly,

BRIAN CROZIER,

303 The Linen Hall,

162-168 Regent Street, W1.

March 30.

Tea race boats

From Mr Rodney Bewes

Sir, Mrs Serice East (March 10) writing about the 1866 tea race and the honourable mention for the clipper Serice, which finished so close to the tidal and Taiping, might like to know that the boats that took the pilots to the tea clippers, the 35ft six-oared Cornish pilot gig, are still raced today.

Three were invited to the 150th Henley last year, a race I had the honour to umpire. One, the Newquay, was built in 1812.

The shape of the gig Bonnet, a relative newcomer of 1830, was used in 1967 over at St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, when Tom Chudleigh built — have you guessed it? — the Serice.

Yours sincerely,

RODNEY BEWES,

The London Rowing Club,

Embankment, Putney, SW15.

March 30.

Teaching of history

From Dr Barry Holley

Sir, Dr Jonathan Clark (article, March 23) asserts that no part of the National Curriculum is so politically sensitive as history. The apparent anxieties of several observers on the eve of the publication of the final report of the History Working Group would appear to confirm this view.

His suggestion that school-teachers are equally divided between a British-content view and a skills-based approach to the subject is nonsensical to anyone in regular contact with the realities of history in schools. Such polarization only distorts the crucial debate about a coherent, broad and balanced provision. This must be reflected in content, skills, concepts and attitudes.

History in schools must be more than a body of knowledge based on an official version of the past. Understanding different points of view should encourage a recognition of and tolerance towards — such perspectives as well as a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Other ways to operate local tax

From Dr D. N. King

Sir, Your leading article, "Community charging" (March 29) regrets the replacement of domestic rates with a community charge and notes that virtually all countries have property taxes. Perhaps I can add some other lessons that can be learned from abroad.

First, the yield of property taxes here as a percentage of total incomes is the highest in the OECD. The yield here is about double the yield in Canada and the United States which have the next highest property taxes. So there is no foreign precedent for a high "roof tax" of any sort.

Secondly, you suggest that revaluations are not essential for a property tax. Most other countries have revaluations at least every five years. The only OECD country to eschew revaluations was Ireland where rates were eventually abolished. It is difficult to see how you could defend a property tax whereby what people pay today depends on the value their property had years ago.

Thirdly, you refer to the administrative — and possible political — horror — of a local income tax. Virtually the only OECD countries which have not undertaken or contemplated major reforms of local taxation in recent years are those which have a local income tax.

Your own preference is for a flat-rate household tax, which you say, falls equally on the rich or poor households "like the poll tax". You overlook the fact that there is some tendency for rich households to pay more poll tax than poor households because there is some relationship between the number of adults in a household and household income. Your own proposal would be even more regressive than the poll tax and therefore is surely a non-starter.

In my judgement, you suffer from the same problem as all our politicians: you are looking for a perfect local tax and there is no such tax just as there is no perfect central government tax. The best response is to endow local authorities with two or three taxes so that none has to bear an

excessive burden. Indeed one other lesson we can learn from overseas is that almost every other OECD country manages to operate more than one local tax. It must be possible for us to do the same.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID KING,

University of Stirling,

Division of Economics,

Stirling, FK9 4LA.

March 29.

From Mr Patrick O'Brien

Sir, With respect, today's leader on the poll tax is not logical. Ability to pay surely means that a household with four working adults can pay more than one with only a retired person. Nor has the fact that the retired person may make more use of local facilities ever been a criterion; nor should it be.

Perhaps every household should be allowed one person exempt from tax if they have no income, thus acknowledging the value of a mother to society; but otherwise all able-bodied adults should contribute to what they vote for. No representation without taxation.

That is not to say that there should not also be a property tax. There is a shortage of building land and housing, so it is only logical to charge those who use it. The simplest way is not to fuss about rating, but merely to measure the area or volume of a dwelling and charge a rate per foot. As all extensions need by-law approval it is simple for a register to be kept up to date. Nor need rebate be given for non-occupancy.

It is important that taxes should promote public economy, that is economy in the use of housing and economy in public expenditure. A poll tax tending people to vote for economy and a tax on housing to discourage profligate use are both in the public interest and could be simple to administer.

Yours truly,

P. O'BRIEN,

2 Evening Glade,

Golf Links Road,

Ferndown, Dorset.

March 29.

Wigging for Bar

From Dr Aileen Ribeiro

Sir, Your Legal Correspondent reports (March 23) on a plea in *Counsel*, the Bar magazine, for the abolition of wig and gown. This is the latest contribution in a long argument, reaching back at least to Sydney Smith in the early 19th century.

It is easy to make fun of certain types of occupational uniform, particularly those of a formal, ceremonial kind, based on the fossilized dress of the past — what Smith described as "the mountebank drapery of barbarous ages". But, unlike some distinctive folk or regional costumes which are largely invented, legal dress has evolved naturally over the centuries to become an easily identifiable uniform; it has incorporated and adapted various elements such as the 15th-century academic

gown, the 17th-century white "bands" or collar, and the wigs of the late 17th and 18th centuries.

The costume is worth keeping, not just out of antiquarian interest, but because wigs and gowns do contribute to the continuity and dignity of the profession, a visible sign that its practitioners are bound by a code of procedure, and are not seen as private individuals when wearing, literally, their distinctive legal headgear.

As well as conveying a necessary gravity, legal dress has the practical benefit of hiding a multitude of sartorial sins — the English being, on the whole, somewhat indifferent to elegance in attire.

Yours faithfully,

AILEEN RIBEIRO,

Courtland Institute of Art,

History of Dress Department,

Somerset House,

Strand, WC2.

March 26.

London's roads

From the Director General of the Freight Transport Association

Sir, The Secretary of State for Transport obviously had his own reasons for rejecting road schemes recommended in the London Assessment Studies (report, March 28). In doing so, he has chosen to ignore the results of five years of exhaustive research by experts into London's traffic problems. Both London's industry and environment would have benefited from their proposals, which were a balanced package of public transport and highway improvements.

The fact is that even though the road schemes have been dropped, the transport problems of London

remain, and will inevitably get worse. Palliatives such as improved public transport and cycle lanes have no relevance to industry and commerce.

The problems for the distribution industry in London need to be tackled as constructively as possible. There is no alternative to the lorry for servicing London, but the capital's totally inadequate road network limits its efficiency and increases costs.

Yours faithfully,

GARRY TURVEY,

Director General

Freight Transport Association,

Hermes House,

St John's Road,

Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

March 29.

Rate for the job?

From Mrs Gillian Hancock

Sir, For the 1989 Joint Matriculation Board Spanish A-level examinations I did an internal assessment of the optional coursework of my four candidates. Each had written three long essays and the careful assessment of each took about half an hour — six hours' work in total.

This morning I received my fee. The amount is £232. A covering note explains that the amount is calculated to be "similar to that of an external examiner but lower". My services are thus rated at

approximately 40p an hour. This is surely less than a fifth of what an unskilled worker could expect to earn.

The examining boards know perfectly well that neither I nor any conscientious teacher would refuse to assess our pupils' work because of the derisory amount they pay. But the fact that such things happen contrasts starkly with what I read in your columns about the importance of education.

Yours faithfully,

GILLIAN HANCOCK,

Francis Holland School,

39 Graham Terrace, SW1.

March 22.

Looking after cathedrals

From the Chairman of English Heritage

Sir, It is surprising, to say the least, to hear Mr Peter Palumbo, as Chairman of the Arts Council, offer to take the lead in the repair of the cultural fabric of the nation, including cathedrals (article, March 30).

Since 1984 English Heritage has spent approximately £20 million each year in grants towards the repair of historic buildings, including churches, museums, theatres, and art galleries. Many other statutory and non-statutory bodies cooperate in this work — local authorities, the historic buildings trusts and period societies, for example.

English Heritage is always open to the advice and ideas of others and welcomes any initiative that would increase the level of funding available to preserve the fabric of historic buildings. But for the Arts Council to suggest that not enough is being done and that it is forced to adopt the position of the major source of policy and public funding for much of this repair work, especially of cathedrals, is moving well beyond its understood role, and would require a major policy change by the Government.

It is true that cathedrals do not at present receive State aid for repairs; this has been at the wish of the Church of England itself, in order that available funds could go to hard-pressed parish churches. But it is untrue that English Heritage regards this position as fully satisfactory.

As your Arts Correspondent correctly states (report, March 30), we are exploring a possible scheme which would allow cathedrals, along with all other major historic buildings, ecclesiastical and secular, to be eligible for repair grants. The body with the professional expertise, experience and machinery to administer such a scheme is English Heritage. Other bodies may have to help with other problems that cathedrals face.

Yours etc.,

MONTAGU DE BEAULIEU,

Chairman,

English Heritage,

Fortress House,

23 Savile Row, W1.

March 30.

From Canon Rex Davis

Sir, Admirable as Mr Palumbo's vision for cathedrals is, there is a flaw. What is needed is not a huge flush of money for the fabric of cathedrals, but a way of achieving sustained predictability of funding. Prudent, cautious and thoughtful conservation and preservation is what must be guaranteed.

For example, work on sculptures as original and rare as the Romanesque frieze on Lincoln's West Front simply cannot be rushed. A fund, yes; a great capital fund, yes. But, please, let us set in place a mechanism to support well planned and craftsmanlike work for the next century.

Yours faithfully,

REX DAVIS,

The Subdeanery,

Lincoln.

March 30.

Disabled and the arts

From Miss Emma Nicholson, MP

for Devon West and Torridge

(Conservative)

Sir, The economics of the cinema or theatre may well prevent some artistic directors from taking risks with the employment of disabled artists (editorial, March 28). The managements of cinemas and theatres, however, have no such excuse for not making their premises much more accessible to disabled people.

We are currently involved in raising the first £1 million specifically for improving facilities at arts venues, so that those who suffer from disabilities should not be doubly penalised by being deprived of enjoying what is their right.

Yours faithfully,

EMMA NICHOLSON

(Chairman, Adapt — Access for the Disabled to Arts Premises Today)

House of Commons.

March 29.

Writing on the wall

From Mrs Barbara Rayner

Sir, While I cannot claim that the initials carved on a barn on this farm are of an earlier date than those of Dr Reeves (March 28), being executed in 1776, they are interesting in being those of the farmer's whole family of nine. One imagines that the building of a new barn was at this time quite an event in family life in the heart of the country.

Yours faithfully,

BARBARA RAYNER,

Hillhouse Farm,

Bucklebury,

Reading,

Berkshire.

Missing cards

From Lady Scott

Sir, I scoured the shops recently without success for a picture card to congratulate a family on the arrival of a new baby.

The family, and the baby of course, are black.

Yours faithfully,

ESME SCOTT,

25a Friary Court,



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 1: The Princess Royal, President, British Olympic Association, attended the Competitions' Conference at International Students' House, 235 Great Portland Street, W1.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 1: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present this evening at the Children's Variety Performance held at the

Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road.
Mrs Charles Vyvyan was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 31: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, this afternoon was present at the service of dedication at the Church of St George, Leichworth, and subsequently opened the Methodist Home for the Aged, "Margarets", Leichworth, Hertfordshire.

Her Royal Highness was received by His Honour Judge Kingham (Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire). Dame Jean Maxwell Scott was in attendance.

Marriages

Mr S.K. Berry and Lady Sophia
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of All Saints, Odiham, Hampshire, of Mr Steven Berry, elder son of Major and Mrs Roy Berry, to Lady Seraphina Erskine, elder daughter of the Earl and Countess of Buchan. The Rev Michael Hawes officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Lady Arabella Erskine and Miss Lorna Berry. Mr Harry McAulay was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr W.J. Cortazzi and Miss A.C. Lassen
The marriage took place on Saturday at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, of Mr William Cortazzi, only son of Sir Hugh and Lady Cortazzi, of Hamilton Close, London, to Miss Anne Lassen, daughter of Mr Charles Lassen, of New Jersey, and Mrs J. Lassen, of Philadelphia. Dr Eugene C. Bay officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Elizabeth Carter Lassen, Miss Suzanne Carter Lassen, Miss Elizabeth Baker Vaughan, Miss Mary Jean Ansara and Miss Deborah Jean Gauthier. Mr Geoffrey Drayson Knox was best man.

A reception was held at Appleford, Villanova, Pennsylvania, and the honeymoon will be spent in Thailand and the Far East.

Mr T.R. Sale and Miss C.J. Helliwell
The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, at Rugby School Chapel, of Mr Tim Sale, son of Mr and Mrs T.W. Sale, of Linton, Northumberland, and Miss Jane Helliwell, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.M. Helliwell, of Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Catherine and Rosie Palmer and Thomas Helliwell. Mr Jonathan Sale was best man.

A reception was held at Rugby School and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.A. Bolton and Miss L.C. Jensen
The engagement is announced between Craig Antony, son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Bolton, of Colchester, Essex, and Lucy Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Neil Jensen, of Broadham Green, Oxford, Surrey.

Mr W.B. Richardson and Miss E.L. Renner
The engagement is announced between William Boys, youngest son of Mrs Jean Richardson, of Barnet, Hertfordshire, and the late Mr Vincent Richardson and Ellen Louise, second daughter of Mr K.M. and Mrs D.B. Renner, of Springfield, Missouri, USA.

Mr S.G. Fenton and Miss E.R. Moorhead
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Guthrie Fenton, of Muggdrum, Newburgh, Fife, and Emily, youngest daughter of the late Major Lindsey Moorhead and of Mrs Frederick Ratky and stepdaughter of Mr Frederick Ratky, of The Manor Close, Sutton Vey, Wiltshire.

Mr R.H. Tempest and Miss S.C. North
The engagement is announced between Roger, elder son of Mr and Mrs Henry Tempest, of Broughton Hall, Farnham, Surrey, and Katherine, only daughter of the late Mr Richard North and of Mrs Timothy Kimber, and stepdaughter of Mr Timothy Kimber, of the Newton Hall, nr Carnforth, Lancashire.

Mr J.A.J. Soper and Miss J.E. Sadler
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs L.A. Chivers, of Lilliput, Dorset, and Janine, only daughter of Mr J.J. and Mrs Sadler, of Gosport, Hampshire.

Mr A. Phillips and Miss L.A. Ward
The engagement is announced between Lesley Ann Ward, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Ward, of Weston-on-Trent, Derbyshire, to marry Mr Alan Phillips, of Madley, Telford, Shropshire, eldest son of the late Mrs Lorna Mary Beal, of Farnborough, Hampshire.

Mr J.A.J. Soper and Miss J.E. Sadler
The engagement is announced between Rupert, younger son of Mr and Mrs A.G. Wainwright, of Berrington House, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, and Julia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J.G. Mann, of Hoole Village, Chester, Cheshire.

Mr R.P.C. Wallis-Fairbairn and Miss E.J. Mann
The engagement is announced between Rupert, younger son of Mr and Mrs R.P.C. Wallis-Fairbairn, of Berrington House, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, and Julia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J.G. Mann, of Hoole Village, Chester, Cheshire.

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Appointments

Judge Machin, QC, to be Chief Social Security Commissioner.
Judge Meda, QC, to be Presiding Judge of the Commercial Court.
The House of Lords will continue as President of Value-Added Tax Tribunals.
He succeeds Mr R. H. Widdows who is to be part-time Deputy Special Commissioner.

Reception

HM Government
Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment at the Scottish Office, was host at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government on Saturday in Edinburgh Castle to mark the 1990 Edinburgh Conference, Civilizing the City.

Nature notes

THE FIRST willow warblers are back, singing and feeding up to catch flies among the sprouting birch leaves. During the next month well over a million pairs of willow warblers will be in birch woods and coppices throughout the British Isles.

Large numbers of chiffchaffs have arrived during the last week, and they are back in many of their usual haunts, mainly in sedge woods than the willow warblers. Early swallows are coming in, most of them from South Africa: they sweep by, with a flash of their blue back and a sweet twitter.

On wild cherry, or gean trees, the white flowers are open on long stems, side by side with long, narrow leaves. Panicles of small yellow flowers like small umbrellas sit on the bare twigs.

OBITUARIES

LT-COLONEL ROBIN HASTINGS

Dynamic on the battlefield and in the saddle

LT-COLONEL Robin Hastings, DSO and Bar, OBE, MC, an outstanding soldier and horseman, died on March 28 at the age of 73. After a brilliant wartime career, during which he was commanding a battalion in action by the age of 24, he became one of the leading amateur jockeys in the immediate post-war era, and for 20 years the much respected chairman of the British Bloodstock Agency until his retirement in 1986.

Robin Hood William Stewart Hastings was born on January 16, 1917, the son of the Hon Osmond Hastings, and was heir presumptive to the 15th Earl of Huntingdon. He was educated at Stowe and Christ Church, Oxford, where he read history. He was commissioned into the Rifle Brigade direct from Oxford.

At the battle of El Alamein Hastings was GSO2 in the 7th Armoured Division, and then John Harding's (later Field Marshal, Lord Harding) tactical headquarters, accompanying him in an open jeep throughout the battle and winning the MC.

After the fall of Tunis, Hastings was among the young high fliers of the Desert War, whom Montgomery selected for rapid promotion. He was given command of the 6th Green Howards in the 5th Division and led them with great skill during the Sicilian campaign.

His most outstanding action, however, came in the Normandy landings when the 6th Green Howards took the Mont Fleury battery and cleared 50th Division's beaches of small arms fire.

The citation for his DSO speaks of his extraordinary courage and leadership of his



battalion during the landings and the subsequent severe fighting in the beachhead, in which the battalion's casualties, including himself, were so severe that it had to be disbanded.

When he was fit again, he took command of 2nd KRRC (60th Rifles) in Mike Carver's (later Field Marshal, Lord Carver) 4th Armoured Brigade as it crossed the Somme during the advance to Brussels, and commanded them until just before Christmas 1944 in the difficult operations amongst the rivers and canals of the Rhine delta, being awarded the Bar to his DSO for operations on the

Mass. Lord Carver has described him as one of the outstanding battalion commanders of the war, who had all the qualities you could ask for: he was a dynamic and enthusiastic leader, extraordinarily brave, quick and decisive, cool and never ruffled, and with an acute tactical sense and instinctive feel for the battle.

Paradoxically, although he was good with troops, he was enigmatic with a dry sense of humour and not easy to get to know well.

Hastings ended the war as GSO1 of 11th Armoured Division, and for a short time commanded the Rifle Bri-

gade's 1st battalion in 1945/46 before having to revert to the rank of Major in the run down of the Army. For three years he was happy as an instructor at the Staff College Camberley, where he could pursue his riding as well as his military career. Indeed, he managed to become runner up to the amateur champion steeplechase rider while teaching at the staff college.

But the idea of a peace-time soldiering with its prospects of slow promotion did not appeal to him. If he had stayed in the Services, he would certainly have done well, but in 1952 he retired to concentrate on horses and racing and joined the British Bloodstock Agency.

Successful on the flat as well as over fences and hurdles, he was a brave and competent rider. He had a horse or two in training with Gerry Hardy at Epsom and won several races on them, his ability catching the eye of astute trainers and bringing him outside rides as well, including a winner at Cheltenham on Queensland, trained by George Todd.

He joined the British Bloodstock Agency when he retired from riding, working his way up to become chairman in 1968. Through his judgement, integrity and business acumen the firm continued to prosper and Hastings himself became an internationally famous figure in this milieu.

Hastings was also widely read and a lover of music. He was the author of *The Rifle Brigade, 1939-45*, *The London Rifle Brigade, 1919-50*, and *Without Reserve* - his autobiography.

He married Jean Susan Palethorpe in 1950. She and their daughter survive him.

BRIG KENNETH HARGREAVES

Business, politics, philanthropy

BRIGADIER Kenneth Hargreaves, CBE, who died on March 27, aged 87, was a Northern businessman with many interests, including politics and philanthropy, but in the wider sphere he will be remembered for his long association with the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, of which he had been president.

He was Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire from 1974-78, having held the same office for the West Riding and the city of York from 1970-74.

Kenneth Hargreaves was born on February 23, 1903. He had a considerable Northern ancestry, the family being linked with the Ramsdens who were landowners and industrialists in the West Riding in the days of the Stuarts.

Educated at Haileybury, he went afterwards into the family concern known as Har-

graves (Leeds) Ltd, co-contraction and exporters. A young man he was in the Queen's Westminster Rifle and the Leeds Rifles, as well as the Royal Artillery (Territorial Army) until 1945, having been promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1939, and Brigadier in 1945.

In spite of his considerable industrial and commercial interests - apart from his family interests he was also on the boards of shipping, colliery owning, and textile concerns, and a local director of Lloyds Bank - he devoted a good deal of his time to the work of the Conservative party and was a Parliamentary candidate, but did not go to Westminster.

For much of his life he was deeply interested in the work of the YMCA and the YWCA.

He received the Territorial Decoration in 1939. The same year he was appointed MBE and in 1956 CBE.

THE MARQUESS OF CHOLMONDELEY

Brigadier Peter Thwaites writes

IT IS not always a compliment to say that a man has no enemies, but it is particularly appropriate to Hugh Cholmondeley (obituary of March 15). He was a great nobleman in the truest sense of the word. Modest, self-deprecating, generous in thought and deed, his mischievous sense of humour and a strong sense of the ridiculous concealed a high sense of duty.

It was fortunate indeed that the hereditary office of Lord Great Chamberlain should have devolved on someone of such encyclopaedic knowledge

of military and state ceremonial. Here his sharp eye for detail and meticulous organisation were invariably offset by a wry self-mockery. At garden parties he would whisper urgently of the need to "beat the bishops to the ice cream".

As a polo player he was beautifully mounted, a powerful striker of the ball and played indefatigably until the final ball.

Hugh Cholmondeley was a man of infinite variety, of talent, gentle disposition and achievement. He was widely loved and will be greatly missed.

SIR ALAN MARRE

John Archer, QC, writes

THE reference in the obituary of Sir Alan Marre, KCB, to his review of the outstanding cases of the "X" list children (those who had notified claims but who had not been accepted by Distillers as thalidomide children) does not do justice to the skill and compassion with which he performed his task, or indeed to Distillers who accepted his recommendations.

Sir Alan was able, after study of the evidence in each individual case to list 10 children about whom a reasonable doubt remained about whether they were thalidomide damaged, and the recommendation was that the

families and children concerned should be compensated on the same basis as "X" list families and children (accepted by Distillers as thalidomide children), so as to have the benefit of the 1973 settlement.

There were, however, some 49 children, those cases in which, after reviewing all the evidence, he was himself left in no reasonable doubt that the claim that the children were thalidomide damaged had not been made out. It was in those cases that he recommended that there should be an ex gratia payment of £10,000 divided equally between parents and child.

BRAITHWAITE RICKFORD

Gynaecology at St Thomas's with integrity and courtesy

RICHARD Braithwaite Keovil Rickford, a white Senior Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at St Thomas's Hospital, London, died in Dartmouth Hospital on March 18, aged 75.

He practised medicine with integrity and precision, always maintaining the highest standards of courtesy and competence. A partial deafness often made him appear austere, but underneath there was a great warmth and a mischievous teasing sense of humour.

Born on June 1, 1914, in Finchley, London, Rickford was educated at Weymouth College and St Thomas's Hospital. He played rugby for the

hospital, he subsequently joined the house staff, and was eventually appointed Consultant at the age of 32.

Rickford became Senior Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in 1965. He was greatly respected by generations of students for his didactic teaching and elegant surgery. For a time he was president of the Hospital rugby club.

In 1946 he was appointed as one of four young gynaecologists to become chief assistant at the Chelsea Hospital for Women. All subsequently became consultants at the hospital and also consultant obstetricians at Queen Charlotte's Maternity

Hospital. They brought to London a wealth of talent that illuminated the specialty for the next 30 years.

Rickford played a full part. He was on the Council of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, he was President of the obstetrics division of the Royal Society of Medicine, and was Dean of the Post Graduate Institute from 1967 to 1979.

In addition he ran a private practice from 100 Harley Street and was highly sought after as a society obstetrician. He represented the UK on the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics Cancer Committee from 1973

until 1979. Rickford retired from St Thomas's Hospital in 1979, taking up a short-term post as Professor of Obstetrics at the Royal Free Hospital, during an interregnum, where his diplomatic skills served to restore calm in a troubled department.

The last three years of his life were diminished by progressive Motor Neurone Disease, which he bore with great fortitude.

In 1939 he married Dorothy, his staunch ally and support for more than 50 years. They celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary last October. They had four sons, of whom three survived.

Alan Webster

The burning challenge to church and churchgoer

THE Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book, *The Burning Bush* by John Drury, Dean of King's College, Cambridge, asks how we can affirm a tradition when the tradition itself is challenged. God is present in something which is consumed but not destroyed, something which is believed to glow more brightly, as in the Bible story of the burning bush. What is happening? How do we test?

A probe might be taken by analysing the sermons of women preaching in church. This was long forbidden in the Church of England and many signed statements that they would leave the church if it was allowed. In 1859 George Eliot questioned this bar in *Adam Bede* where Dinah, the Methodist preacher, not only heard Hertsy's confession in the death cell, but is described early in the novel as preaching a masterpiece - a liberation sermon long before liberation theology was identified. "The Gospel is good news for the poor...brought up in poor cottages, reared on oaten cake and living coarse...I am poor like you...I know that nothing could part us from God".

The tradition against women speaking in church was finally destroyed by the spark lit by Maude Royden. In the 1917 National Mission at the climax of the war she was barred from speaking in church except to women and children; however she braved the then Bishop of London and in 1920 preached the Three Hours to 900 people in St Botolph's, Bishopsgate - an event described in one newspaper as "the most wonderful thing that happened in London yesterday".

Though ordination was refused she had shown that those who trouble a tradition are as much part of the religious process as the official guardians.

Today there are about 1,000 women deacons in holy orders as well as sisters, nuns and women readers, many of who preach. More and more congregations hear women preach and many of their sermons are reproduced. Like sermons by men they vary in power and quality. Certainly the old tradition of women keeping silent has withered, but are the voices strengthening Christianity?

Woman preachers certainly experience some of the tragedies about which we need to think. At the 1990 City new service at St Michael's, Cornhill the Rev Nerissa Jones, while preaching on readings from Isaiah and Luke, told the

bankers and City people who traditionally attend, the story of Dennis Sculley. Botolph's Algate had made Dennis as happy over Christmas as they could, he was on a no-fixed-abode allowance of £34.40 a week; he found Christmas Day the lowest spot in the year.

"Dennis went that night to sleep on a bench in the open air; they gave him blankets but he died during the night. His sole possession, found in his pockets, were a spare pair of pants and a vest, a packet of Opal Fruits. Lazarus? or Dennis? I'm only asking, it strikes me so often when I take part in public worship what a tremendously risky thing it is to do, undermining a comfortable life. You took a risk when you came to worship. Can life continue more or less unchanged? I hope not, for many of you have great power to use".

Penny Nairne is a reader. Preaching at St Andrews University in 1989, she expounded the story of the woman who broke the precious oil over Christ's head. She described the custom at a Jewish wedding of the symbolic breaking of a glass. Not only in the midst of rejoicing there is a world of brokenness and suffering outside, but also there is the "unofficial" meaning that the bridegroom must now break with his past.

The defensiveness of the onlookers in the Gospel story is paralleled by the defensiveness in the attitude of so many today within the church to the gifts that are being offered to Christ by women. The challenge to patriarchy and hierarchy is part of a challenge to a mind-set of confrontation. Can we achieve relationships in which we really look after and serve each other, in which we can speak the truth and be ourselves so that we need no longer be kept apart by irrational fears or by misleading labels we pin on each other? Jesus in his encounters with individuals always saw through to the real person and their needs.

Sister Hilary, of the Wantage Community, who works at Westminster Abbey and St Paul's, preached at Evensong at the Abbey on the text "The end of the matter is: God is all". She spoke of William Blake's verse

To see a World in a Grain of Sand and Heaven in a Wild Flower, Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand and Eternity in an Hour.

Just over a year ago, a young woman from Baltimore copied down those

words and sent them, along with a few other souvenirs of her visit to London, home to her parents. It was mid-December and she was going home for Christmas. She boarded a Pan Am flight at Heathrow, and you will be able to guess the rest of her story; her plane blew up over Lockerbie.

She did indeed go home but it was to her eternal home, the Eternal which Blake had written about and to whose imagination she had kindled when she had copied down his words. I believe God had given a revelation of himself to Lindsay in those words of Blake; the too had been, I think in her short life a sear and a search for hidden meanings and to follow where they led.

For Sister Hilary religious pluralism in the global society and culture to which we now belong is not a new idea. She pointed out in another sermon that John Donne, preaching in 1624, spoke of religion as "a plural thing...God is plural, sociable, communicable, extensive".

There is no feeling in these or other sermons by women of any attempt to discount either the Scriptures or tradition. The feeling is rather that the Scriptures and tradition are alive today glowing in the new circumstances of our lives. Penelope Eckersley, preaching at St James's, Piccadilly, on a language for the Easter questions insists that for the Easter story as for the Exodus story searching for clear-cut answers might also lead us away from the point. "What we need to allow ourselves to believe, is that the principles of resurrection are woven into the very fabric of life...that is why poetry is so often the most appropriate language".

Reading these and other sermons I remembered George Herbert's chapter on the country parson preaching, in his *A Priest to the Temple*. He reminds us that sermons are dangerous things as they might change us. They procure attention when the preacher is not witty or learned or eloquent, but holy. It was that costly quality of holiness which came through to me from these fresh voices in God's house. Holiness can affirm tradition even as it changes it.

Alan Webster was formerly Dean of St Paul's.

(John Drury, *The Burning Bush*, Collins. Found £2.95; Sheila Fletcher, *Maude Royden*, Blackwell £22.50)

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Charlesagne, king of the Franks and Holy Roman Emperor 801-14. Aix-la-Chapelle (?), 742(?); Giovanni Casanova, adventurer, Venice, 1725; Hans Christian Andersen, Odense, Denmark, 1805; William Holman Hunt, painter, member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, London, 1827; Emil Zola, novelist and critic, Paris, 1840; Max Ernst, Surrealist painter and sculptor, Brühl, Germany, 1891.

DEATHS: Honoré Mirabeau, politician and orator, Paris, 1791; Sir James Clark Ross, polar explorer, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, 1862; Richard Cobden, "The Apostle of Free Trade", London, 1865; Samuel Morse, inventor of the telegraphic code of that name, New York, 1872; Edward O'Connor Terry, actor-manager, 1912; C.S. Forester, novelist, Farnham, Surrey, 1966; Georges Pompidou, President of France 1969-74, Paris, 1974.

Christenings

On March 30, 1990, at St Mary Undercroft at the Palace of Westminster by the Right Rev. L.E. Lushcombe, Arthur Jack, infant son of Mr James and the Hon Mrs Best, and James Alexander Christian, infant son of Mr John and the Hon Mrs Stan.

The godparents for Arthur are the Hon Mrs Noel, Mrs Michael Wynn, Mrs Philip Deer, Mr Simon Henson and Mr James Harvey-Bathurst.

The godparents for James are Mrs Edward Bury, Mrs Lavinia Dawes, Miss Sarah Mason, Mr John Penny and Mr Jonathan Wiesner.

Colfe's School

Spring Term ended on Friday March 30. The Master of the Leatherellers' Company, M.W. Chester, opened the new 14-acre Leatherellers' Sports Ground, Reading, on a language for the Easter questions insists that for the Easter story as for the Exodus story searching for clear-cut answers might also lead us away from the point. "What we need to allow ourselves to believe, is that the principles of resurrection are woven into the very fabric of life...that is why poetry is so often the most appropriate language".

Remembering these and other sermons I remembered George Herbert's chapter on the country parson preaching, in his *A Priest to the Temple*. He reminds us that sermons are dangerous things as they might change us. They procure attention when the preacher is not witty or learned or eloquent, but holy. It was that costly quality of holiness which came through to me from these fresh voices in God's house. Holiness can affirm tradition even as it changes it.

Alan Webster was formerly Dean of St Paul's.

(John Drury, *The Burning Bush*, Collins. Found £2.95; Sheila Fletcher, *Maude Royden*, Blackwell £22.50)

Just over a year ago, a young woman from Baltimore copied down those

EDUCATION

Edited by David Tyler

Nipping bullies in the bud

Aggressive under-fives may go on to be school bullies. Barbara Lamb explains moves to catch them young

The boisterous four-year-old who answers back, throws minor tantrums and refuses to share his toys is familiar to most teachers. But how do you deal with a constantly aggressive child who stamps, kicks and bites his friends, is violent towards his mother, disruptive in the home and uncontrollable in class?

Child psychologists and psychiatrists, with their increasing concern about bullying in school, believe this behavioural pattern can be arrested at pre-school age. Using new techniques now being developed they hope to prevent the disruptive infant at nursery school going on to become the classroom bully, teenage delinquent or aggressive adult.

Great Ormond Street children's hospital in London has just embarked on a research programme looking at aggressive behaviour in three to five-year-olds. Out of 15 referrals from nursery schools in three London boroughs, they have selected 10 children whom they felt could benefit most — leaving out the seriously disturbed and the merely disobedient.

According to Jo Douglas, the principal clinical psychologist in charge of the study, aggression in the very young seems to centre on an inability to communicate with their peers and negotiate their way out of a problem. The research programme will encourage them to generate their own solutions; it is a thinking process, not a telling process, she says.

"What we are trying to do," she explains, "is help them generate less violent social solutions. For example, if a child wants a toy from another toddler he might grab it, or knock the child over to achieve his aim. We will try to help him look at other ways. The answer might still be 'I'll keep shoving and pushing until I get it'. If we point out that such behaviour could hurt or upset, he will be encouraged to think more positively, like 'I might ask the teacher to help me', or 'I'll wait until he's finished with it'."

According to Ms Douglas, these methods have been shown to work in a recently completed pilot study assessing difficult referrals. "Those children began thinking and behaving in a completely different way," she says. "The teachers reported a marked improvement in their school work. They became more sociable, more able to get on with other children and participate in class."

"They realized they were able to think and that there was a choice. They would hesitate and frown their brows to delay their impulsive reaction. The point is, we are not trying to evaluate and say that's good, that's what you ought

to be doing. We talk about other options and what they think works. Of course, you might get the unexpected, those who still think violence is the answer."

The positive results achieved have given them the enthusiasm to continue with this full-scale programme, which starts in earnest next term. They will treat the children in groups of five for a term, two mornings a week, and then assess their progress.

What causes children to become aggressive in the first place? "The children whose aggressive behaviour is more pronounced tend to come from families where the parents don't solve conflict very adequately, tend to shout and hit each other — or the child — instead of talking it through and trying to find other ways around the problem. "Violent behaviour is a learnt process," Ms Douglas says, "a learnt way of behaving which can be very effective if you are large for your age at three or four, the characteristics of the school bully." The team will be looking at problems like punching, kicking, swearing and threatening, recognizing that children may be compliant in the classroom but aggressive in the playground. They are aiming to challenge or even provoke the children, by, say, giving five toddlers only two pencils to share and seeing how they cope. "They've got to learn to negotiate, be socially co-operative, and we're going to have to stretch them in various ways."

While Great Ormond Street is working with the children themselves, Sonya Hinton, education psychologist at the child guidance clinic in Guildford, Surrey, offers a different approach. She runs a behavioural management workshop for parents with difficult toddlers, and believes that mothers or fathers have to be prepared to change themselves if the behaviour of their child is to improve. Her eight-week workshops, held weekly at the Guildford nursery schools of Shepherds Hill and Dene, have had very positive results. Some of the young mothers who have taken part explain what the course has meant to them. "My approach is altogether different," says Jean, mother of Tom, aged three. "I'm much more aware of what is likely to spark off his bad behaviour — it's like advance warning, and it's working for both of us." Daphne admits: "Before I used to shout and smack Anna. Now I keep my cool and it seems to work." Carol says four-year-old Robert used to be a monster. "I'm now trying to praise him when he behaves well, to replace something bad with something good."

Lack of praise provokes attention-seeking, often what causes a

child to become aggressive in the first place. Three-year-old Brian used to hit people when they didn't say hello to him, his mother says. With the group's help, Brian was taught to introduce himself first.

Parents are encouraged to talk about one problem at a time. The objective of these workshops, to which fathers are also invited, is not for Ms Hinton to solve the problem, but to supply the parents with problem-solving strategies for coping in any situation, and give them the confidence to know they can help their child.

She is convinced that the sessions are most effective at pre-school age, because bad behaviour is ingrained by the time they get to junior school. "There is evidence to suggest that children who have behavioural problems at three are likely to have those problems magnified by the time they are eight. What is more, many of these kids will also have learning difficulties."

The strategy Ms Hinton uses for problem-solving is known as the ABC of behaviour. A is for the antecedents or precipitant events — why is the behaviour happening, and who is it happening to? B is behaviour itself, is it appropriate for the age and development of the child? C is for consequences —

why the child continues to behave the way he or she does.

During each session, much emphasis is placed on the reasonableness of the demand being made on children, and on making certain they know what is required of them. Communication plays an important part. It was lack of communication that caused Jamie's problem with four-year-old Michael. "Most of our fights used to be over me trying to do things for him. Whenever I got him a drink, he got bad-tempered. It was never right, either too strong, too weak or in the wrong cup. Meal times were hell, he would throw food at me, stamp or lash out. He would even make a confrontation over where he was sitting — I could do no right."

"Coming here has helped me see that he was trying to assert his independence. I am a fairly dominant person, he is strong-willed too, and we clashed. The group has helped me see that I can change the whole situation by simply letting him get his own drinks and avoid confrontation head on."

Sonya Hinton's own evaluation reveals the success of her workshops so far. Twenty-six mothers whose children were causing deep concern were chosen at random, equal numbers of boys and girls. Sixty-nine of the mothers inter-

viewed at the workshop reported that the child's behaviour had improved; behavioural difficulties at school also decreased, although less markedly.

Headmistress Christine Cousins gave her wholehearted support to these workshops, and she has seen many improvements in the classroom. "Even mothers with problems not so severe as to need child guidance — which still carries a certain stigma — needed to hear that others suffered from the same small difficulties that become enormous in the middle of the night."

Dr Eric Taylor, a child psychiatrist at London's Institute of Psychiatry, agrees with Ms Hinton that with a very young child, to help the child you have to help the parent.

"Parents can do a lot by not overreacting. If a child's aggression leads to aggression from the father or mother, that breeds an escalating cycle. They should react with calmness and control, give clear expectations and reasons to the child as to why those expectations are there."

"The more aggressively children behave the less they are going to get the loving attention of their parents and the firmness they need. On the other hand, a child's behaviour will tend to reflect what the parents do, and this may set a vicious circle in motion."



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As local councils replace Ilea in running London's schools, Angela Rumbold and Neil Fletcher assess the change

The boroughs can do better

IT WAS to be expected that abolition of Ilea would excite some media attention, bemoaning the loss of a London-wide education authority.

Ilea had its time and place. No one is suggesting that Ilea did not at times initiate and promote some good provision. But its best initiatives, such as its specialist education and central music facilities, will not be lost to the capital.

The fact remains that Ilea spent much more per head than any other education authority in the country. This simply was not reflected in a superior performance. Its examination results for 16-year-old school-leavers, for example, were consistently among the worst in England. Ilea was remote: its supposedly user-friendly system of divisional offices did not work because all the really important issues were still handled at the centre. The recent highly critical report by HMI on a school in Hackney was a case in point; it took a widely publicized HMI condemnation to move Ilea to take remedial steps.

That combination of high expenditure and poor performance persuaded the Government that the only effective cure was a fresh start. Ilea protested at the decision — taken in spring 1988 — accusing the Government of irresponsibility and claiming the transfer of education to the inner London boroughs could not be arranged in less than two years. Ilea was wrong.

The 13 new inner London local education authorities (LEAs) — the 12 boroughs and the City — are ready to go. Schools and colleges throughout inner London will open for business as usual today. The boroughs deserve much credit; councillors and officers have responded quickly to the prospect of expanding their responsibilities, and the newly appointed directors of education and their staffs have worked long and hard.

I have visited schools in a number of the boroughs, including Hackney and Tower Hamlets, and had meetings with all the boroughs. I am sure the combination of enthusiasm and profes-

sional application I have seen, when combined with a smaller, more responsive local education authority, will produce an improved performance for London children. Ilea's own research last year concluded that a difficult inner-city environment need not prevent pupils from achieving good results. A well-ordered school, led by a caring and demanding head, can bring the best out of pupils. Pupils respond to raised expectations. I am not pretending the LEAs have an easy task. They will have to ensure that their professional workers, such as the local inspectors and educational psychologists, can offer the necessary guidance to schools. I applied the fact that most of the boroughs have developed incentive packages to attract good teachers and overcome the recruitment problems. The Government is helping: we have accepted the Teachers' Pay Advisory Committee's recommendations and we have supported an Ilea-initiated housing scheme. There is more to be done, and we shall help where possible. But it is for the new LEAs themselves to create an atmosphere that will attract teachers to their schools.

They also inherit secondary schools with much surplus capacity, and they will need to take these spare places out of use if they are to develop a more cost-effective service. It does pains me to say that it is not in half-empty secondary schools.

The LEAs will also face the challenge of implementing local management for schools. They must put in their schemes to the Department of Education by August 1991, and start the budgeting in April 1992. The timetable is tight but I am sure that it can be met. Westminster has led the way by opening for local management immediately.

The focus has been on schools. That is not to diminish the other crucial parts of LEA's service: nursery provision, further education colleges and the linked youth-care services. These should prosper still. The boroughs will form their own judgements on the value of different parts of their educational provision.

AT LAST it is all over for Ilea. If education in Britain had been marketed like shirts, Ilea would have been hailed as national brand leader for more than 100 years, a kind of pedagogic Marks & Spencer, with 1,200 branches across the capital.

If you analyse size and consumer satisfaction — 94 per cent of parents voted to retain Ilea in the parents' ballot two years ago — you find the brand leader also took the biggest market share and showed above-average penetration into social classes A, B, C1, C2, D and E.

So, will abolishing Ilea change anything in London schools? Are we at the dawn of an educational renaissance, or will Kenneth Baker, the minister who abolished it, end up as the April Fool? Schools and colleges are only as good as the teachers who work in them. How good, then, are London teachers?

I remember, as a trainee teacher, in a northern city in the mid-1960s, contemplating taking my first job in London. Even at 200 miles' distance, the advice given to me was uncompromising. London schools are the toughest for teachers anywhere in the country. There are great challenges but enormous personal and professional rewards. London might break you, I was told, but more likely it will make you.

There was no better starting point for a probationary teacher than the supportive networks that Ilea used to provide. A newly qualified teacher would be attached to an induction centre, assigned to a mentor, given a day off a week in year one, and have progress monitored carefully by teams of inspectors and heads.

This was not cheap, of course, adding 20 per cent to first-year teaching salary costs. But it was crucial if new teachers were to keep their heads above water.

There were other "special offers" to teachers — an in-house television station that until the late 1970s sent daily schools programmes into classrooms, and more recently educational videos; the Ilea publishing house producing books and packs for London teachers by London

teachers; more per pupil spent on book and equipment purchases; 30 specialist teachers' centres; an army of seconded advisory teachers helping to spread the best practice; and the best in-service training provision anywhere.

The Ilea school system would, I suppose, pass the Advanced Cate's Egg Test — good in parts, depending on how you looked at it. There were many brilliant, committed teachers, but there were many bad ones, sheltering behind the convenient banner of London's "mild-mannered" militant teachers' union, Ilea's school heads, and capable, indomitable governors; a number of outstanding secondary schools, usually large, purpose-built, single-sex institutions with a properly balanced ability range; some tiny, inefficient schools on split sites with insufficient staff to offer even a core curriculum of subjects; vestigial secondary moderns, without occupational sixth forms and remaining in business only by dispatching two-thirds of their 16-plus pupils on daily journeys across London to study less popular subjects under what were euphemistically called "consortium" arrangements.

Will abolishing Ilea change anything for the better? I doubt it. Change and improvement is already taking place in the system, but abolition will, I fear, merely act as a brake, or even halt that progress. If the factor that turns promising young teachers into outstanding, experienced professionals is impaired, what hope is there of raising standards?

London needs more quality teachers if the great step forward in primary education, promised by the National Curriculum Council, in primary mathematics and science is not to become a modest shuffle. I am worried that there may be an exodus of secondary school teachers in their prime. London must have resources to support classroom teachers, or schools will go under. Heads will feel abandoned and governors will have money and power, but nothing to do with either.

Education classified, page 19

Michael McCarthy profiles the first of the five finalists in the *Times/PM* Environment Awards

The man with a growing ambition

MARK PEPPER



How does one describe a man who wishes to bring the whisper of a silver birch and the shimmering light of silver birch and the bright red berries of the rowan back to the bare hills of the Scottish Highlands?

Mildly eccentric? For many years people called Ron Greer just that. The polite ones, that is. Less well-mannered observers said he was crackers. It was partly, perhaps, that he worked on his own, spending his own money on the saplings and the fencing to keep off the sheep and red deer, and hitching lifts from his home in Blair Atholl out to the shores of Loch Garry, where the landowner had given him permission to plant.

Lone campaigners often alarm us, and there were 50 people to class Mr Greer with mad inventors for every hiker who came across him, asked what he was doing, and astonished, gave him a tanner.

The very idea of bringing native broadleaved trees back to the Highlands on a large scale slips easily into most people's list of hopeless causes. No matter that for thousands of years after the Ice Age the Grampian Hills were forested with alder and hazel, birch and willow, rowan and Scots pine. No matter that much of the forest has been cut down only in the last four centuries.

We think of the Highlands instinctively now as wild and heather-clad and bare, and the bareness is so complete as to seem unchallengeable, even in the imagination.

Mr Greer, a researcher in the Scottish Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory at Pitlochry, began to challenge it 17 years ago after studying fish in Loch Garry, on the borders of Perthshire and Inverness, and trying to see if they would grow faster if trees planted



Spadework: Ron Greer and trees — "we feel we should put back what has been damaged. We're doing it because we love the Highlands"

around the barren shoreline increased the insect population. He became more interested in the trees than the fish when he found that such native species as alder, birch and rowan would grow there, at 1,400ft, quite naturally. It was not climate preventing them, as he had assumed. It was the sheep and red deer, kept there by man, that grazed any young sapling.

A radical realization slowly dawned: that the whole Highland landscape of bare heather-clad hills, now so much part of the picture-postcard image of Scotland, was unnatural.

It struck Ron Greer that he was not looking at God-given wilderness, he was looking at devastated forest — today's Amazon, a few hundred years on — which was kept that way after the Highland clearances of the 18th century because it suited landowners who wished to keep sheep, shoot grouse or stalk red deer.

But it could be different, Mr Greer felt. The devastated forest could be regenerated. Not in the dense uniform ranks of conifers

that have given forestry a bad name, but in the variety of the original broadleaved woodland, with all its richness: for the health of the eroding soil, for wildlife, for the economy, and for Scotland.

All it needed was the will. And he had the will. Mr Greer is a fiery, good-humoured Glaswegian of 39 who fell in love with the Highlands at 15 after a memorable farm holiday, all golden eagles and Scottish wild cats, and now regards them as home.

He began to plant broadleaved trees himself, by the hundred, in his own time and at his own expense, visiting Iceland and Norway with their similar climates for forestry expertise, trying out nearly 40 native and foreign species; and they grew.

As the northern shore of Loch Garry began to take on a fringe of young trees, he started to attract supporters. Four years ago they formed themselves into the Loch Garry Tree Group, and now there are more than 100 of them, of all ages, all living in the Highlands, who together have planted more than 6,000 saplings along the

shores of the loch. At their spring planting a week ago they cheerfully ignored the snow that was coming over the hills like grape-shot to fix hundreds more young trees around an eroded gully.

"If you give the land half a chance it will repair itself," said Mr Greer, between swigs of his spade. "The heather and tartan image of the Highlands has only existed for a couple of hundred years, but it is unnatural, and we feel we should put back what has been damaged. We're doing it because we love the Highlands. It's our home."

To see the bare heather hills of the Highlands, part of the very image of Scotland, as a monument to environmental failure which could and should be reversed, is undoubtedly an unorthodox vision on the part of Ron Greer. But on the once-barren shore of Loch Garry, along with his alders and birches and rowans, it is planted and growing.

● Ron Greer and members of the Loch Garry Tree Group can be heard talking to Valerie Singleton on PM this evening, from 5pm.

YOUR VOTE

TODAY we present the first of the five short-listed entries for this year's £5,000 Environment Award, jointly sponsored by The Times and BBC Radio 4's PM programme. The finalists, who will be featured each day this week in *The Times* and on *PM* the same evening, were selected from 167 entries from all over Britain, from the Shetlands to Cornwall.

The judges were Sir Crispin Tickell, British Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and the man widely thought to have played a key role in the conversion of Mrs Margaret Thatcher to environmental concerns, and Mr David Asker, Chairman of the Council for the Protection of Rural England. They were aided by representatives of *The Times* and the BBC. Readers and listeners will be invited to vote for the winner, who will receive £5,000 to be spent on the furtherance of the winning project in consultation with the organizers. Details of how to vote will be published in *The Times* and broadcast on *PM* at the end of the week.



Neil Fletcher
Former leader, Inner London Education Authority

Meeting an impossible dream

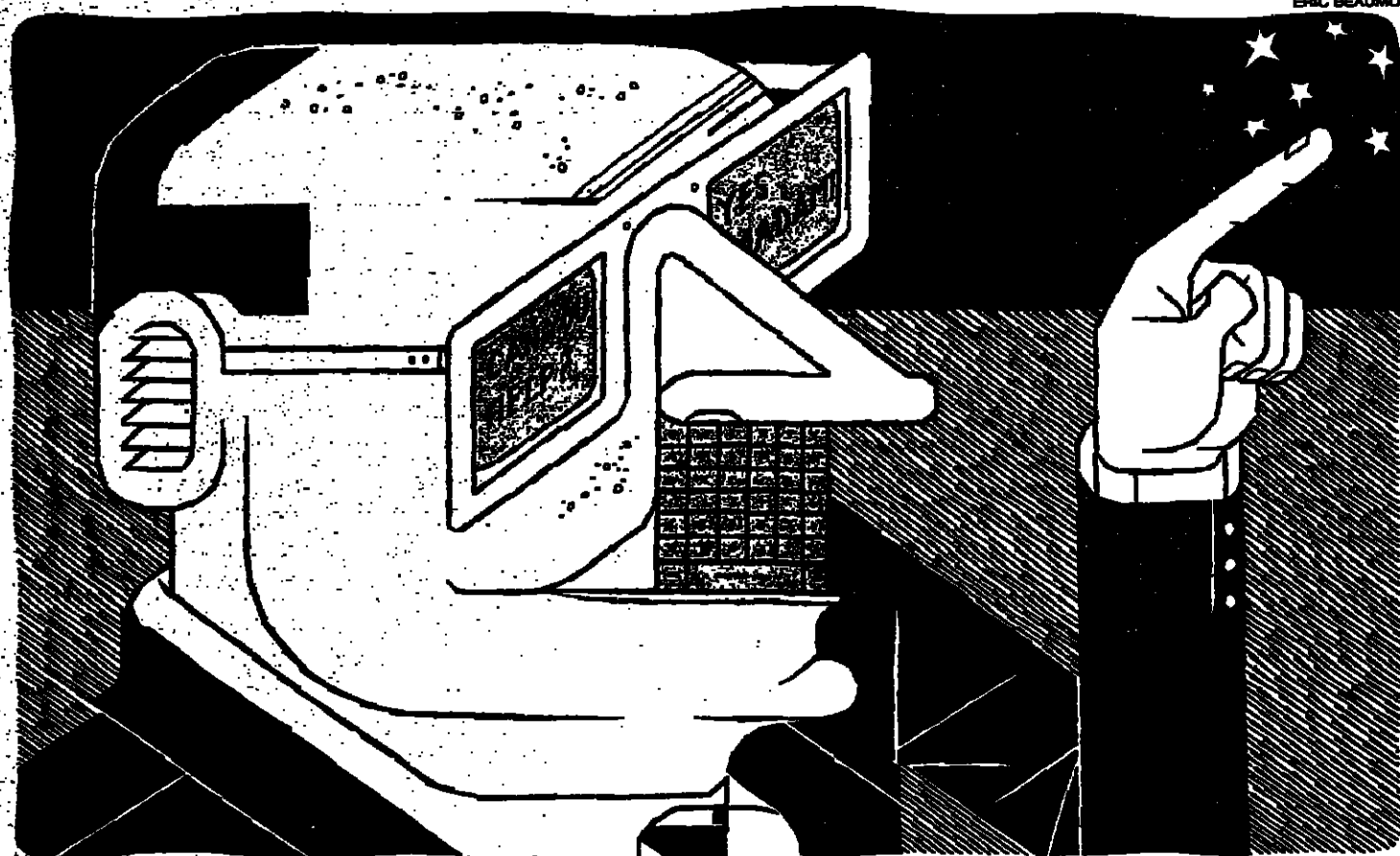
Clive Couldwell on computer advances which have led to drastic changes in the Civil Service

The Government's plan to allow its Civil Service departments to set their own budgets and so operate in a more commercial way is a dream of truly epic proportions. It is also a bold step.

The idea of turning departments into agencies run by their own chief executives and allowing them to charge out for their services fundamentally alters the traditional central government philosophy that the Civil Service should operate on a non-profit basis.

'The general public are now customers and are to be treated as such'

offered to customers and the full costs associated with it. A number of projects are already under way; some are major success stories.



equipment as it became available.

Since the Inland Revenue project started, ICL has installed three generations of machine and a sophisticated system for searching large data bases, called CAFS.

The network links 50 ICL mainframe computers in 12 regional centres.

Designed in three parts, the first, COP (Computerization of PAYE), accounts for everyone whose tax is deducted by an employer. CODA (Computerization of Schedule D assessment) covers self-employed earnings and a number of different kinds of tax, such as capital gains and the assessments made on investment income.

The third and most impressive part of the project, NTS (National Tracing System), holds the names, addresses, National Insurance numbers and Tax Office references of more than 40 million taxpayers. Records can be matched in seconds and the system removes the drudgery often associated with tax work.

Because staff now make all changes to computerized files directly through a terminal, they are able to communicate with

taxpayers more quickly and accurately.

Just as important from the Government's point of view, ministers can now institute tax reforms (for example, the independent assessment of husbands and wives starting this April, and the community charge knowing a computerized system can efficiently handle the administration headaches. The same process would have been impossible to carry out using a manual system.

Another blockbuster network project worth over £200 million has involved the Department of Social Security (DSS). A small number of terminals has already been placed in its offices around the country as part of a 10-year project called Operational Strategy.

Its aim is to end the need to deal with each benefit separately and replace it with an approach known as the "whole person concept". Instead of digging through mounds of folders for the relevant details, clerks will be on line to a massive data base - the Departmental

Central Index (DCI). This will give them immediate access to 60 million records of everyone over the age of 16 and information about dead people for widows' pensions.

The DSS pulls in more than £50 million a year in taxes, National Insurance payments and employer contributions. It pays out a total of £47.5 billion in family support and in payments to the old, disabled,

'... the system removes the drudgery associated with tax work'

sick, unemployed, widows and orphans. To administer this huge flow of transactions, it employs 85,000 people, 3,000 of these in computing.

So far, the pilot system has gone "live" in 23 local offices and the DSS is still on course to have all 500 offices "live" by the middle of next year with an estimated 40,000 terminals. The project should save £150 million in staff

costs in the 1991-92 financial year. Thanks to the new network, clerks will eventually be able to deal with all the benefits at one time and get a full picture of the person claiming a benefit. This will improve the DSS's performance and image.

But the process of computerization is not always a success for the supplier. Critics claim procurement procedures take too long and do not deliver value for money. It can take as long as seven years and cost the supplier six times more to bid for Government business than for work in the private sector.

According to David Teague, ICL's director of central government and defence business, procurement procedures add 30 per cent to the cost of government systems compared with the private sector where the financial burden of procurement is just 5 per cent.

The Government's procurement arm, the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA), is now trying to speed up the process and is reviewing its whole tendering procedure. A response is expected at the end of this month.

Red tape holds back a braver new world

Streamlined buying policies are needed if the Government is to make the best use of developments in computer technology

Attempts by the Government to delegate procurement responsibilities to individual departments is at loggerheads with the complex problems associated with an upsurge in the use of mini- and micro-computer systems. The wide variety of these rapidly evolving systems, coupled with a lack of information technology (IT) skills in government departments, leads to a fragmented approach to their installation.

Moves to change the long and detailed procurement process have met with some success. But European Community regulations demanding open competition, and a mix of centralization and decentralization in government continue to hamper the development of an efficient way forward.

Until the late Seventies, most departments operated on large, single-supplier mainframe computers paid for directly by the Treasury's computing arm, the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA). But the growth of multi-supplier minis and micros and developments in associated support tools, equipment and services placed extra strain on already bureaucratic procedures. In 1984, the CCTA lost direct control of budgets, leaving departments to sort out their own requirements.

A 1985 Trade and Industry Committee report into IT praised the shift of responsibilities, but said it had done little to speed up the process. In 1989, hardware and software orders came to £375 million, of which £350 million was funnelled through the CCTA in a process which could take anything up to three years.

For micro- and mini-computer installations, this time lag results in out-of-date equipment for the user. The problem is worsened by short equipment life-cycles. (According to ICL, minis last about

three years compared to seven years for mainframes). A major dilemma for departments is the increasing range of minis and micros from which to choose. Attempts by the CCTA to cut through "red tape" for smaller projects resulted in the introduction of standing arrangements - a vetted supplier list, including equipment performance, maximum price details and discounting arrangements. This allows departments to order direct from the list, cutting down the normal lengthy procedures to a quick paper exercise.

As another measure, equipment costing less than £50,000 can be bought without the need to satisfy any procedures.

It has enabled the enormous growth in mini and micro-computers to be contained without us becoming a bottleneck," Bill Houldsworth, CCTA's acting director, says.

Many suppliers believe the CCTA would function more effectively in an independent role away from Treasury control. This view is supported by the former CCTA director, Alan Healey, who recently quit his job after a dispute with the Treasury over the CCTA's future.

In a report to the Treasury, Mr Healey recommended a management buyout of CCTA, a move which would, in theory, free it from much of the bureaucracy, allowing it to focus on providing expert advice to government departments.

The Treasury's decision to ignore Mr Healey's suggestion, coupled with its reluctance to let go of the reins, makes a long-term solution to the IT procurement problems unlikely in the near future.

And while the CCTA's role remains unclear it can do little more than relieve the symptoms of a bureaucratic process.

Giselle Jones



Alan Healey: disputed role

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Bids that cost a lot — before work starts

Accelerating use of information technology by the Government means big business for suppliers. Last year, it spent £2 billion on IT — but suppliers face enormous expense in satisfying long and detailed procurement procedures for contracts they may not win.

ICL, the biggest supplier to the Government with 20 per cent of the business, estimates suppliers' costs to be 30 per cent of the contract value, compared with 5 per cent in the private sector.

David Teague, ICL's director of government and defence systems, says: "The hidden costs are horrendous. There will be a huge number of bidders, and specifying requirements can take anything up to two years — and a further 42 weeks for procuring."

The view found sympathy with Peter Burton, government sales manager for Digital Equipment, the world's second-biggest computer company. "We cannot afford the process," Mr Burton says. "It can cost us £50,000 to bid for a £500,000 contract and we reckon the costs that government departments face in assessing the bids are the same. Sometimes we do not bid because it is not worth it."

Before a contract goes to tender, government departments must document details of equipment

Government contracts can be lucrative, but companies tendering must proceed carefully, Giselle Jones writes



A tender subject with costly implications: David Teague (left), ICL's director of government and defence systems, and Bill Houldsworth, the CCTA's acting director



needs in an operational requirement (OR). This process comes under fire from critics. ORs take anything up to three years, according to statistics from the Treasury's Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA).

Lack of skills in some government departments can result in gaps and errors.

Using consultants counters this, but they are expensive and produce

complex solutions that suppliers end up implementing. They are also often brought in to patch up mistakes already made. In 1989, the Government spent £175 million on consultants — a figure which grows by 50 per cent a year.

Many projects require technical design studies (TDSs) from suppliers detailing how users' needs will be met. Suppliers claim TDSs are unclear and the Computer Services

Association believes many companies are driven away at this stage because of the costs.

"We have to go through the same procedure each time for standard equipment already in use," Mr Burton says.

Suppliers believe more could be done to cut the number of bidders for a contract. The CCTA offered more than 1,000 tenders last year, for which any of the 800 companies

on its trade list could bid. A recent Inland Revenue contract attracted 90 bidders. Mr Teague says: "The Government could reduce its time scales by narrowing down these massive open bids."

But the Government is bound by European Community regulations that require contracts worth more than £70,000 to appear in *The EC Journal* for 77 days before proposals can be accepted. And,

the CCTA claims, the private sector does not have to contend with the pressure of showing value for money in open competition.

The CCTA's acting director, Bill Houldsworth, says: "When I ask private companies to explain their procurement process, they are reluctant. Most of the time, they have a definite preferred supplier — we have to go through the long process."

Not all suppliers are aggrieved by procurement problems. Jim Marsden, manager of government marketing at Bull, a French computer company, says: "In the government market, it is up to the vendor to work out the bid costs."

But most suppliers believe that these costs could be reduced. More partnerships between the Government and industry, and less detailed ORs are among the recommendations.

It is also suggested that if government departments focus on business issues while suppliers provide technical solutions, it would save the time and expense of hiring consultants to fill in gaps and correct errors.

Another proposal was to limit TDSs to contracts above a certain value so that fixed prices could be set for existing solutions.

The CCTA already has a project team looking at ways of improving the procurement process by providing more information in advance, reducing the detail in ORs, and encouraging partnerships. And it is looking for a formal consultation with industry and government departments.

But Mr Houldsworth says that while there is room for improvement, "speeding up the process is the most difficult. We cannot get away from the procurement procedures in an open environment."

Fraud and loss runs up a bill

Billions of pounds are handled by the Government every year — and much of it goes missing

With £300 billion passing through its fingers every year, central government is an easy target for criminals. Its computer systems, thought to be worth more than £5 billion alone, hold a lot of sensitive information, mainly in the areas of social security, taxation and defence.

So it comes as no surprise to learn that a recent survey has shown half of all the computer installations within this central government structure have been defrauded, a quarter of the crimes having been committed by "persons holding posts of responsibility" (Clive Couldwell writes).

But there is no real way of knowing just how serious a problem fraud has become. The National Audit Office, an independent body that certifies accounts from all the government departments and a wide range of other public sector bodies, found that although the Government's procurement agency — the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA) — tries to collect details of abuse to the Government's computer and communications systems, neither the agency nor the police has access to any comprehensive statistics or trends on computer crime. This is mainly because there are no

all aspects of Information Technology. The CCTA's responsibility has been to provide a mixed bag of advice and support for IT strategies and plans, performance and productivity, technical research, consultancy, procurement and contracting services.

It also provides advice, guidance and support on computer security and the Data Protection Act 1984 through its Advanced Technology and Telecommunications Division, CT4, which looks at the protection of information and the risks to particular types of computer system, evaluates security products, and develops security training courses with the Civil Service College.

Surveys by the CCTA and the National Audit Office have identified a potentially serious failure by many departments to draw up and test effective contingency plans to cope with computer disasters.

The lack of these plans and in many cases the absence of proper stand-by arrangements have prompted CT4 to develop its own risk analysis and management methodology (CRAM) to help departments measure how secure their computer systems are.

Split into two parts, the analysis side values assets (buildings, computer equipment) and data (the replacement cost should it be stolen

or destroyed,

its perceived value to those using it, how sensitive it is

and its responsibility under the Data Protection Act 1984). Risk

management reduces these risks to an acceptable level by adopting counter-measures.

There is a need to restrict access to computer

rooms and buildings with

locks and badges, lock up

valuable computer programs

and files and to site the computer installation away from

for example, areas likely to flood.

From an administrative

point of view, the drawing up

of a security policy is crucial to

establish who is responsible

for maintaining what, for

reviewing progress and for

carrying out training. And

the use of passwords and other

devices is crucial to restrict

access.

Unfortunately, the responsibility

for analysing and managing

computer security risks now lies squarely with departments themselves and

CT4's security work programme has been severely

hampered by a shortage of

skilled security staff, an annual

staff turnover of 20 per cent

and a continual commitment

(40 per cent of CT4's available

effort in 1987) to classified

work.

For the first two years of the

programme, only two trained

staff were available for un-

classified work, and the CCTA

had to bring in highly paid

consultants. These key staff

shortages have forced the

CCTA to delay some assessment

projects. It nevertheless insists that

cases of fraud be "quickly and

vigorously pursued".



computer fraud (67 cases worth about £1 million in the five years to 1981, and 77 further cases up to 1984, worth some £1.1 million) but the response to the Commission's surveys was not high in the first place.

In government though, information is more readily available because departments notify the Treasury of fraud and an annual summary is then sent back. Between 1981 and 1986, 475 cases of fraud had been reported worth £3.2 million. These included 11 cases of computer fraud valued at £94,000.

Surprisingly, the National Audit Office's review of published cases suggests that fire is the cause for more than half of "serious disruptions to processing".

There is no routine recording in government of disasters, but the CCTA estimates that two government installations each year will suffer a disaster.

It is this obvious lack of reliable evidence about the frequency, scale and type of computer crime, disasters and abuse which will hamper any future attempts to identify areas of particular risk and assess the cost-effectiveness of any counter-measures.

Since the review of the CCTA's role seven years ago, departments have been told to become more self-sufficient in



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EDUCATIONAL

Continued on page 32

POSTS

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while more and more are providing retraining or refresher courses, making the transition that much easier. Consider also, the sense of personal satisfaction you derived from it and ask yourself what other career could offer you so much scope for personal development?

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To: Ken Jones, TASC, Room 4/17, D.E.S., Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH.
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The career of the future

TASC
TEACHING AS A CAREER

COMMITTEE OF VICE-CHANCELLORS AND PRINCIPALS OF THE UNIVERSITIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ACADEMIC AUDIT UNIT DIRECTOR

Applications are invited for the new post of DIRECTOR of the CVCP national Academic Audit Unit, which is to be based at the University of Birmingham. The Director will establish and lead a team concerned with assuring that universities have adequate mechanisms for maintaining the quality of their teaching and identifying and commending to universities good practice.

The Unit will operate by a system of audit and will consist of a small Directorate and a pool of staff seconded from universities to work in audit teams. A Management Board will oversee the Unit.

The Director will recruit the first staff to the Unit, in consultation with the Management Board, and develop and conduct a programme of pilot audit visits to universities in Autumn 1990. The aim is for the Unit to be fully operative by mid 1991.

Candidates should have:

- knowledge of the teaching function, organisation, structure and policy of higher education;
- relevant senior management experience of administration and decision making in education or industry, and knowledge of quality assurance and policy or management review.

Candidates might well be from higher education but candidates with other appropriate experience and are also invited to apply. Applications from both men and women are invited.

The salary will be negotiable and, subject to review of the Unit in 1992, the post will be for three years in the first instance.

Further particulars may be obtained from David Young, Assistant Secretary, Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, 29 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9EZ, 01 387 9231 Ext 234 to whom applications should be submitted by 19 April 1990.

JAPAN FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE GRANTS FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH

The annual income from a donation made by the Japan Foundation is available for the promotion of Japanese Studies in degree-teaching institutions in the UK. Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Japan Foundation Endowment Committee, c/o The University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN, to whom completed applications should be submitted by 15 May 1990 for consideration at the next meeting.

SHROPSHIRE September 1990 County Boarding School Co-Ed - 7-13 Vacancies for: Arts, Sciences, Creative, Sports or equivalent. For more information contact: Mrs. Moffatt - Secretary - 0905 225 244

JOHN LYON SCHOOL HMC Day 500 boys 11-18 Head of Computer Studies

required for September 1990 to take charge of Computer Studies teaching, be responsible for our RM Nimbus network and develop use of computers throughout the school. Ability also to teach Mathematics to GCSE or above is essential. An enhanced salary scale plus London Allowance. Further details of this post can be obtained from the Headmaster, to whom applications and full c.v. together with the names and addresses of two referees should be addressed. The John Lyon School, Middle Road, Harrow Middlesex, HA2 0HM

Downside School Required for September 1990

Head of Mathematics

to teach to Oxbridge

Applicants should write with Curriculum Vitae together with the names and addresses of two referees to: The Head Master, Downside School, Stratton-on-the-Fosse, Bath BA3 4RJ. Tel. 0761 232206. From whom further details may be obtained.

53934

University of Sheffield

Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry THE SIR ARTHUR BELL CHAIR OF MEDICINE

Applications are invited from clinically qualified candidates for the Sir Arthur Bell Chair of Medicine, to be held from 1 October 1990. The appointment will be based in the University Department of Medicine, The Clinical Sciences Centre, The Northern General Hospital.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Director of Personnel Services, The University, Sheffield, S10 2TN to whom applications, including a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent by 11 May 1990. Please quote reference R996/A.

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QUEEN MARY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL WALSALL Boys' Voluntary-Aided Selective Grammar School

Head of School, 500 or 600 depending on qualifications and experience. Applications in writing (for formal entry to the school) to the Headmaster, Queen Mary's Grammar School, Sutton Rd, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 2PD. From whom further details can be obtained. Ability to help with rugby football a consideration.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

ASTON BUSINESS SCHOOL

As one of the largest in the UK, the Business School enjoys an excellent reputation for its teaching and advanced research, which have an international orientation and emphasise the study of innovation. Applications are invited for:

Lectureships/Teaching Fellowships in Law

Applicants for these posts should be graduates in law with first class academic or professional qualifications. Candidates should have either teaching and research backgrounds, or relevant practical experience. Applicants able to contribute to the teaching of one or more 'core' legal subjects and with a research interest in financial aspects of law or the regulation of legal services would be preferred. Applications would also be welcomed from recent graduates interested in the development of law within the concept of an integrated entrepreneurial Business School. Excellent opportunities will be provided for research, consultancy and collaboration with industry.

Terms of appointment and salaries

Lectureships within and up to the maximum of the ranges: £10,458 to £15,372 per annum (Lecturer Grade A) or £16,014 to £20,469 per annum, and exceptionally to £22,672 per annum (Lecturer Grade B).

Appointments will be for a period of three years initially, with the possibility of renewal or subsequent transfer to a continuing appointment.

Teaching Fellowships - Salaries within and up to the maximum of the scales for Teaching Fellows (Other Related Scales, Grades 1-5) £9,816 - £24,285 per annum.

Appointments will be for a period of three years, with the possibility of renewal for a further period not exceeding three years.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer (Academic Staff), quoting Ref. No. 9014/2 Aston University,

Aston Triangle, Birmingham B4 7ET. Tel: 021 359 0670 (24-hour answerphone). Closing date for the receipt of applications is 20th April 1990.

ASTON UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

SLADE FELLOWSHIP

The Slade Electors offer a Slade-Fellowship in the History of Italian Renaissance Art for two years from 1 October 1991, with the possibility of renewal for a third.

The Fellowship will carry a stipend of £9,700 per annum and membership of U.S.S. The Fellowship will be associated with a Slade Junior Fellowship at Lincoln College which will provide a college room and a common table, a book allowance, research assistance, and access to its research and equipment funds. The fellow may be offered accommodation in college. Under the college scheme the first year of a Fellowship is primarily research and the Fellowship may be renewed for one or two years.

The duties of the Fellow will comprise a limited amount of teaching and lecturing in the History of Italian Renaissance Art.

The Fellow will also be expected to carry out advanced study or research in the field. The Fellowship is open to holders of a D.Phil. or higher degree of similar standing in any university.

Applications (eight copies or one from overseas), naming three referees should be received not later than 15 June 1990 by the Secretary of the Slade Electors, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD.

The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

University of Oxford in association with St Cross College University Lectureship in Spanish Linguistics and Philology

Applications are invited for the above post, which according to age on the scale currently £10,458 - £21,852 per annum. The lecturer's teaching duties will cover the whole spectrum of the linguistic and philological study of Peninsular and American Spanish, at undergraduate and graduate levels. The successful candidate will take up office on 1 October 1990 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The successful candidate may be offered an Official Fellowship at St Cross College. (No separate application to the college is required). Further particulars concerning the appointment and its scope may be obtained from the Secretary of the Board of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, 27 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JD, to whom completed applications should be sent by 9 May 1990.

The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Southampton THE UNIVERSITY

CHAIR OF INORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Applications are invited for an established Chair of Inorganic Chemistry which will become vacant on the retirement of Professor J.R. Duran in the early September 1990. Candidates may have research interests in any area of inorganic chemistry. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary and Registrar, The University, Southampton SO9 5NH (Tel: 0703 592002), to whom applications (10 copies from applicants in the UK) should be sent before 30 April 1990.

The University promotes an equal opportunities policy.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

FACULTY OF MEDICINE PROFESSOR CHILD HEALTH

Applications are invited from graduates in medicine for an established Chair of Child Health following the appointment of Professor I.C.S. Norman as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine from September 1990. Candidates may have research interests in any aspect of child health and should have wide experience of teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary and Registrar, The University, Southampton, SO9 5NH (Tel: 0703 592002) to whom applications (11 copies from applicants in the UK) should be sent before 11 May 1990. Please quote reference number: 314/AJS/jm.

The University promotes an equal opportunities policy.

St John's College, Cambridge Organist and Director of Music

The College proposes to appoint an Organist and Director of Music, to take office after the retirement of Dr George Guest on 30 September 1991. The Organist and Director of Music will be responsible for the music in the College Chapel in consultation with the Dean, for the recruitment and direction of a volunteer mixed-voice choir, primarily of members of the College, and for encouraging the general musical life of the College. Applicants are invited to write to the Master, St John's College, Camperdown CB2 1TP, asking for further particulars and details of the application procedure. The closing date for applications will be 31 May 1990.

University of Cambridge UNIVERSITY LECTURER OR ASSISTANT LECTURER IN THE FACULTY OF LAW

University Lecturer or Assistant Lecturer in the Faculty of Law to take up appointment on 1 October 1990, or as agreed. Preference to candidates whose primary interest is in Land Law, Equity and/or Family Law. The appointment will be for three years, with the possibility of reappointment for a University Lecturer, to retiring age and a University Assistant Lecturer for two years. The salary scale for a University Lecturer is £14,169 to £21,852 p.a. and for a University Assistant Lecturer, £11,088 to £15,372 p.a.

Further information from the Secretary of the Appointments Committee for the Faculty of Law, Old Synod Building, Mill Lane, Cambridge CB2 1RX, to whom applications, a C.V. and the names of two referees should be sent by 30 April 1990.

The University follows an equal opportunity policy.

CARDIFF

CARDIFF LAW SCHOOL CHAIR IN LAW (NEW ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS SCHEME)

Preference will be given to applicants whose interests lie in the area of Common Law.

Professorial Salary range above £27,000 per annum

For further particulars and application form please write to University of Wales College of Cardiff, PO Box 431, Cardiff, CF1 1TA, quoting Ref 90/22.

Closing date: 1 May 1990.

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Temporary Lectureship in Environmental Law

Applications are invited for a New Lectureship in Environmental Law, available for two years, from 1 October 1990 to 30 September 1992.

The post offers an exciting and challenging opportunity to a young lecturer to play a key role in the development of an international centre for research and teaching in environmental law and to help in the development of an international centre for research and teaching in environmental law.

He or she will be expected to prepare lectures in environmental law and to help in the development of an international centre for research and teaching in environmental law. The post offers an exciting and challenging opportunity to a young lecturer to play a key role in the development of an international centre for research and teaching in environmental law.

Applications should be sent to the Secretary, London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE.

Closing date for applications: 1 May 1990.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

DEPARTMENT OF MANUFACTURING AND ENGINEERING SYSTEMS TWO PROFESSIONALS

Applications are invited for two established Professorships within the Department of Manufacturing and Engineering Systems.

The Department has several well developed research themes. It is hoped to make one appointment in the field of Manufacturing Engineering Systems, including CIM, CAD/CAM and Robotics and the other in the broad area of Operations Management.

The capacity to provide innovative leadership is more important than the precise specialisation, particularly as one of the posts will comprise the Lucas Chair and Headship of the Department.

Applicants must have a proven research record and the capacity to further develop well established research and teaching programmes.

The second Professor will also direct the work of the newly created Centre of Management Studies and its degree course in Management and Technology. This Centre will develop related research activities and may become an independent department.

The appointments will be from 1 October 1990. Further details are available from the Personnel Secretary, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3PH, or tel: (0895) 812304 (24 hour service) to whom completed applications should be returned by 30 April 1990. Informal enquiries can also be made to Dr. Paul Lowe, Head of Department of Manufacturing and Engineering Systems, (0895-74000 ext 2905).

Brunel
THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST LONDON

UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO Hamilton, New Zealand SENIOR APPOINTMENTS IN LAW

The University of Waikato has vacancies for nine senior staff in its new School of Law.

Professors A90/21. Applicants for these two positions are expected to have demonstrated general academic excellence. An interest in the areas of the common law and comparative legal systems would be preferred.

Senior Lecturers A90/22. Four positions are available. An appointee with appropriate qualifications could be considered for appointment as Associate Professor level.

Lecturers A90/23. Three positions are available. The salaries for New Zealand universities are as follows:

Professors	NZ\$77,000 to NZ\$96,000 per annum
Associate Professors	NZ\$67,000 to NZ\$73,000 per annum
Senior Lecturers	NZ\$54,000 to NZ\$64,500 per annum
Lecturers	NZ\$34,000 to NZ\$47,200 per annum

The Dean of the School, Miss Margaret Wilson, takes up her appointment shortly and planning of the curriculum is proceeding. It is intended that the undergraduate and graduate programmes of the School be broadly based, including a wide range of extra-legal subjects. They will be structured in ways that relate the study of law to other disciplines. There will be an emphasis on leadership in the New Zealand context. Teaching of the first professional year for LLB commences in March 1991. By the time the School produces its first graduates, it will have a student enrolment of about 500 and a staff establishment of 30.

Further information and the application details are available from the Academic Staff Registrar, The University of Waikato, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton, New Zealand, telephone (041) 71 562 865 fax (041) 71 560 153. Electronic mail: rghw@cc.waikato.ac.nz (Internet). Please quote the appropriate reference number. Applications close on 15 May 1990.

The University welcomes applications from suitable people regardless of race, creed, marital status or disability.

Applications are invited for THREE NORTH WEST CANCER RESEARCH FUND LECTURES IN CANCER RESEARCH

Appointments will be made at the level of Lecturer A scale £10,458 - £15,372 p.a. in exceptional cases appointments may be made at a higher level.

These posts, which are funded by a new initiative from the North West Cancer Research Fund, are aimed at bringing 'new blood' into cancer research in the departments and research teams of the University. The posts will be for 5 years in the first instance. Each lectureship will receive annual supporting funds up to £14,000.

Applicants are expected to identify those departments or research groups within the University in which the research would be undertaken and should submit detailed programmes of proposed research with their application.

The successful applicants will have had a sound training in research and will have already established a post-doctoral record in investigative work. In making the appointment, emphasis will be placed more on the quality of the applicant and assessment of their proposed research, rather than a specific field of interest.

Informal enquiries may be made to The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

Quote ref: RV-541.TT

Applications, by c.v. with the names of three referees, should be received not later than 26 April 1990, by The Director of Staffing Services (AS), The University, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

University of LIVERPOOL

An Equal Opportunity Employer

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

UNIVERSITY LECTURESHP IN THE ECONOMICS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Applications are invited for the above post to be filled from 1 October 1990, or as soon as possible thereafter. Stipend on the age-related scale £10,458 - £21,852. The successful candidate may be offered a fellowship at Wolfson College.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Administrator, Social Studies Faculty Centre, George Street, Oxford, OX1 2RL, to whom applications (8 typed copies, 1 from overseas candidates) should be sent to arrive by 20 May 1990.

Southampton THE UNIVERSITY

PROFESSOR OF HUMAN REPRODUCTION AND OBSTETRICS

Applications are invited from graduates in medicine for an established Chair of Human Reproduction and Obstetrics following the retirement of Professor A.J. Duggan in the early September 1990. Candidates may have research interests in any aspect of human reproduction and obstetrics. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary and Registrar, The University, Southampton SO9 5NH (Tel: 0703 592002) to whom applications (11 copies from applicants in the UK) should be sent before 11 May 1990. Please quote reference number: 314/AJS/jm.

Continued on page 32

THE ARTS

Keep it central

Simon Mundy, the new Director for the National Campaign for the Arts, responds to Arts Council chairman Peter Palumbo

There is something wonderfully British about the Whitehall compromise known as the "arm's-length" principle. It is a curious but splendid contrivance invented to encompass two opposed principles: the need for continuous state patronage and the requirement for the arts, when being inventive, to subvert the pomposity of the establishment doing the patronizing.

Except when Ministers hide behind "arm's-length" to avoid answering questions to which they only have embarrassing replies, it is a good principle. So, too, is that of accountability in public affairs, which demands that there be a proper chain of command between those dispensing the money and parliament which grants it. In the new arrangements for funding the arts in England, however, these twin principles have come slap-bang up against each other. Mr Luce, the Arts Minister, and the Arts Council Chairman, Peter Palumbo, have come down on the side of accountability. Luke Rittner, the Secretary-General of the Council, feels that the main casualty will be the independence of the arts world and so has resigned.

It is a complex issue. Peter Palumbo argued on this page on Friday that devotion to the regions could only be justified if their constitutional independence is modified so that they become part of, not just clients of, the Arts Council structure. One could hardly disagree with that.

The problem arises if the Arts Council devolves so much to the new Arts Boards that its role is dissipated. Mr Palumbo sees the Council divesting itself of all but a few of its present clients for direct grants, and even those would be reviewed after three years. This could be dangerous, because the Arts Council might then become

just another think-tank, producing endless reports, co-ordinating, liaising, being an "interface" — and all the other word-manufacturing jobs which are the hallmark of an organization which has outlived its usefulness. While government is handled nationally a strong body is needed at that upper level to protect the organizations underneath, either from central bullying or from more subtle but just as damaging tactics of divide and rule. There is a point at which accountability becomes another word for justified control.

The Arts Council clearly feels that it can counter the charge of creeping irrelevance by widening its responsibilities. Mr Luce has mentioned broadcasting, international affairs and amateur arts; Mr Palumbo has included architecture and heritage conservation. This makes some sense. One of the biggest problems the arts have faced in the battle for recognition of their economic importance is that public perception of them has been limited to those areas traditionally funded by the Arts Council.

Whether this all-embracing remit is right for the Arts Council, though, is rather more doubtful. English Heritage, the British Council, the Crafts Council, the Museums and Galleries Commission and the British Film Institute all have distinct functions which the Arts Council should not try to usurp. If it is going to take on the burden of being the champion of all civilization, it needs to be a richer, tougher and more independent body than it is now. Taking away the direct control of a meagre purse, in the meantime, while reinforcing the umbilical link with government through the vague notion of accountability, will not help anybody except ministers.

Ensemble work and confident conducting are the strongest points of an enterprising British Verdi premiere

To be a pilgrim is not enough

OPERA

John Higgins

Jérusalem
Grand Theatre, Leeds

FIRST, the encouraging signs. Paul Daniel is Musical Director-elect of Opera North and on Saturday night he conducted as though he were already seated in the chair: immediate response from the orchestra, having one of their best nights, and a notable control of everything on stage, including the chorus which had a stirring night as well.

The opera, in its British premiere, was Verdi's *Jérusalem*. It was Verdi's first commission for Paris, in 1847, and being short of time he decided to re-work an earlier piece, *I Lombardi*. There were precedents for such a short cut, including some from Rossini himself.

Verdi stuck with the subject of the liberation of Jerusalem by the Crusaders in the 11th century. But he touched his forehead to his French employers by asking his new librettists, Royer and Vaez, who had recently provided the words for Donizetti's *La Favorite*, to switch the opening act from Lombardy to Toulouse. There a certain amount of mayhem goes on, including attempted murder, before everyone sets off for the Holy Land.

At the Paris Opéra in 1984 Massimo Bogianckino staged a season of "Paris versions" of operas better known in other incarnations. There, as in Leeds, *Jérusalem* was stripped of its ballet, but the producer Jean-Marie Simon did not make much of a case for *Jérusalem* supplanting *Lombardi*. The same could be said of Pierre Audi in Leeds.

Audi, a distinguished ex-administrator of Islington's Almeida Theatre, looks very inexperienced when it comes to tackling one of



Shadowed challenges: a scene from Pierre Audi's production of Verdi's *Jérusalem* for Opera North, now at the Grand Theatre, Leeds

Verdi's more sprawling operas: *Jérusalem*, like *Tramontane*, is in four acts and eight scenes. The Toulouse act was incoherent — and coherence is top priority with an opera as unfamiliar as this. Thereafter he relied heavily on the Grand Theatre's revolve, kept almost constantly on the move, and the symbolism of the Cross and the Book, the latter presumably being the Bible or the Koran, according to which side you are on.

But the production, which is intended to be Teutonic-severe, with the shadows of Peter Stein playing a prominent role, is apt to fall into ludicrous excesses.

Several of these are provided by the costume designer, Jorge Jara, who dresses the much put-upon hero Gaston in a crumpled white suit. The villain, Roger, who tries to atone for his crimes by becoming a Holy Land hermit, wears a tight-fitting Chairman Mao jacket. A chorus of Palestinian hours were decked in gold-lamé and black wigs, while the crusaders had beeper's protective gear.

Arthur Davies as Gaston was at his best in the great tenor aria in Act II, "Je veux encore entendre" — true Verdi line here. But even he could not cope with the *Scène de la Degradeation*, where Gaston is stripped of rank and

title. Here he was asked to sing a corpse, later dismembered, over his head.

Janice Cairns as Hélène was also stripped, down to her bodice, for the brief opening love scene. The role probably lies a bit high for her and the voice went through an acid patch in the Polonaise — perhaps she knew the hours were waiting. She showed at her best in the swaying ensembles in which the opera abounds.

Joë Garcia, heard here in *Showboat*, also seemed somewhat miscast as Roger, the hermit-villain. The voice has plenty of darkness, but all too often produced a gurgling sound instead of

the true bass-baritone Verdi demanded. Securer performances came from Keith Latham's Count of Toulouse, who spends most of the opera in a wheelchair, and Christopher Ventris as the Papal Legate, principal accuser of Gaston, who literally fingers him with a papier-mâché digit on the end of a pole.

No, the chief pleasures of the evening, sung in a sort of French, are from Paul Daniel, the orchestra and chorus. *Jérusalem* is above all a choral work, with pilgrims and infidels challenging one another. But it does need a helping hand from God; Allah or the producer to make it viable.

Common-sense coward

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

All's Well
That Ends Well
Barbican

IT IS the sort of platitude one expects from a Shakespearean character with a non-name. "The web of our life is of a mingled yarn, good and ill together," opines First Lord, only to vanish a few lines later. Yet his truism hits the heart of *All's Well*, showing why we nervously call it a "problem play" and, in particular, what worries us about its male lead.

Dr Johnson famously pronounced Bertram a cowardly pup. First, he feebly consents to the French king's demand that he marry Helena, the amateur physician whose medieval antibiotics have cured the royal fistula. Then he deserts her with all the cruelty he can muster. He ruts, struts and fies, and yet ends up being, in Johnson's magisterial sneer, "dismissed to happiness". Even today we prefer a successful hero to be an Orlando, Ferdinand, or Petruchio,

good blokes all; not a caddish Bertram.

One of the merits of Barry Kyle's intelligent if unexciting production is that it effectively gives Bertram the mixed-yarn defence. As played by Paul Venables, he is a bashful, unimaginative fellow who wants no more than the other blokes of his class and age: to wear a blue-gold uniform and ride to glory. Why should he not resent being the figure the King puts on the cheque when he pays his doctor's bill? Can he be really be blamed for becoming vindictive when he sees his future ruined by female cunning and regal decree?

At worst his Bertram is ordinary and immature. To emphasize this Kyle furnishes his childhood home with a rocking horse, and in his next scene transforms this into an unconventional receptacle for the swords of officers whose training consists of fencing before huge mirrors. Like them, Bertram is not bad, not good, just going through a callow, narcissistic, toy-soldier phase. Maybe he makes a more plausible hero than one whose moral yarn is perfect.

Anyway, the result is a play about growing up: a process whose



Moving: Paul Venables (left) reconciled with Patricia Kerrigan

key event is the unmaking of the braggart Parolles, played by Bruce Alexander as a pub bore with a tendency to dress like a cockatoo, and sound like a road drill. Once Bertram has seen through this false friend, his eyes can focus on his true one, who is of course his abandoned wife, Patricia Kerrigan's tough-minded, tough-hearted Helena.

The production has not the energy or invention of the Victorian-era *All's Well* Trevor Nunn gave us in 1981. Kerrigan has not the passion of Harriet Walter, nor Venables the dash of Mike Gwilym, nor Gwen Watford the repose Peggy Ashcroft brought to the role of Bertram's mother. Yet their triple reconciliation struck me as almost more moving.

Restoring his faith in humanity

Jeremy Kingston

Figaro Gets Divorced
Gate Theatre Club

NOBODY, introducing a production of the *Orestia*, feels obliged to mention that Aeschylus died when an eagle dropped a tortoise on his bald head: the play lives regardless of the fancy death of the playwright.

But the work of Odo von Horváth is not very well known over here, and this is only his third play to be translated into English, out of a total of 18. Therefore, critics and theatre publicists will try to fix him in the public mind by saying, as I am about to, that *en route* from Vienna to America after the Anschluss, Horváth stopped off in Paris, went to the cinema to see *Snow White*, sheltered from a storm under a tree and was killed by a falling branch.

And so to the play. Stephen Daldry's first production since taking over as artistic director of the Gate promises very well indeed for his policy of introducing us to unknown European drama.

To note a relatively minor success, it is no small achievement to draw agreeable performances from the half-dozen children who play orphans living in what used to be Count Almaviva's castle. And in a more technical area he

manages to suggest a great party rollicking along off-stage by means of an open door, an angle of the light and varying sound levels of music and laughter.

The play follows the misadventures of the characters from the opera, Almaviva and the Countess, Figaro and Suzanne, when the Revolution drives them from their country, though Horváth sets their story in the 1930s to point his argument that the first victim of any revolution is man's humanity. Like *The Marriage of Figaro*, it is a play about masters and servants and the complications caused by sex.

In this case the latter complications are explored through Figaro's refusal to give Suzanne a child. Why bring a child into a world that has no future? Thus, the movement of the play is towards Figaro's recovery of his faith in the world and hence his humanity.

Inevitably, part of the play's

pleasure lies in the answers it gives to the frivolous question: what happened next? So it is good to know that while Almaviva — a grand bullfight performance from Richard Mayes — falls foul of the law, he copes remarkably well with poverty. It is another nice touch to bring on Herr von Cherubin as a Mexican band-leader type.

Where Horváth creates his own characters, he has a manner of letting their importance steal upon you. Christine Drummond's brusque Midwife, for instance, identified only by her profession, begins as an eccentric before we grasp that her humanity at least is not to be doubted.

The play's weakness is the long route it takes to empathize with Figaro's frustration of his wife. He stifles her life-loving spirit, well suggested in Diana Kent's tight desperation, with his dogged ambition for their new hair salon.

Inventively directed though these scenes are, Roger Sloman's Figaro becomes something of a *petit bourgeois* cypher, regaining depth and human nuance only when put in charge of the orphans. But that, of course, is Horváth's life-affirming argument.

Ad libs, plugs and good clean soap-opera fun

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

AT A time when, last night's welcome return of *Blackadder* apart, the best television comedy is coming from its commercials, and sometimes intentionally at that, the idea of a whole social history of Britain through its screen advertising is a brilliant one. Nicholas Barker's *Washes Whiter* opened on BBC 2 with "She's not a moron, she's your wife", David Ogilvy's celebrated advertisement to his account executives 30 years ago, and then considered the role of the trapped woman desperately fighting germs as if they were Germans in order to keep her old wartime feeling of usefulness alive through a mind-numbing period when the definition of female guilt was failure

to send your husband out to work on a cornflake breakfast.

Admen talked meaningfully of the "symbolic psychological underpinning of whiteness commercials", but what we really got here was the evocation of a whole lost world in which lavatories could not be shown on camera before nine o'clock in the evening and Orson Welles was the voice of something appalling round the S-bend.

But some formats never change: Oxo's Katie may have had to have been moved to the country in order to avoid uneasy upper-class overtones, but the "Two Tarts in the Kitchen", adespark for the dialogue between the knowing neighbour and the dumb mother with the working brand of detergent, looks safe into the next century. Lavatory warfare is as potent as ever: one lady refuses even now to have a cup of tea with

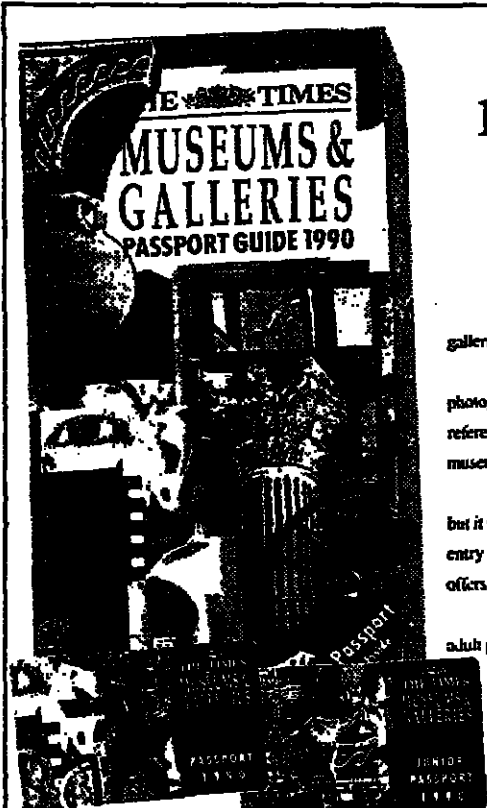
her neighbours until she has inspected the state of their bathroom rims.

The *South Bank Show* (ITV) considered the composer Carl Davis, who has, along with Kevin Brownlow and David Gill, invented a totally new form of cinema, that of the restored and newly orchestrated silent. In the 10 years since Abel Gance's *Napoleon* was brought back to screen life, Davis has been writing scores for classic and long lost Chaplin, Keaton and Gish films from the 1920s. Daniel Wile's enthralling profile was the first to explain in meticulous detail how this is done, complete with orchestras, stop watches, television monitors and Davis's remarkable ability to recreate Haydn.

This season's very hit-and-miss *Screen Two* series (BBC 2) came up with a real winner in Nigel Williams's *Kremlin Farewell*.

Broadcast fortuitously at the end of the major Thames sequence of Stalin documentaries, this was a drama loosely based on the true story of Nikolai Bukharin, the revolutionary theoretician who gave his life at a show trial to save those of his wife and son. Ten years on, Williams took up the story of the boy at an orphanage and cross-cut it with what had happened during the Stalinist purges.

But the true star here was Freddie Jones, as the old schoolmaster who befriends the child and tries to bring him to some understanding of the horrendous betrayals that were innate in Stalin's notion of fatherhood for all his people. It was an award-deserving performance pitched somewhere halfway between Mr Chips and Guy Burgess, and it was surrounded by others no less memorable.



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CONCERT
Paul Griffiths
BBCSO/Zollman
Festival Hall

Every few years there is a performance of Peter Maxwell Davies's *Worlds Blis*, and we all say what an extraordinary piece it is, and it gets put away again. Perhaps this is right: the work is certainly not something one could stand hearing very often, its climaxes being among the most terrifying things in all music. One has to forget just how violent the outcome is going to be, if one is to let oneself be drawn again into the gigantic, equally unprecedented slow introduction, where Davies sustains a single breath for trombones and then trumpets over strings through a span of 20 minutes.

In Friday's performance there were broken this huge movement, but they mattered not at all. What was important was that Ronald

Zollman and the orchestra were slowly screwing up the tension, so that the nightmares of the second half — a spiky wind allegro, cruelly elementary iterations from the percussion, and the hair-raising final yowl — could come at us with maximum ferocity, and so that the work's process of growth and fury could be maintained for a full 45 minutes.

Speaking before the performance, Davies had referred to a sense of events being about to happen, and this was fully communicated in the introduction, as in later slow passages. But we also heard the events themselves, and if the ending is deliberately, hugely inconclusive, suggesting a potentially endless meditation on the little medieval English song that gives the piece its title, one cannot imagine anything more intense and penetrating.

That is one reason why it would be a mistake to use *Worlds Blis* as a yardstick to measure the later symphonies and find them wanting. This was something unrepeatable.



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"Very funny... the National has a hit on its hands"



Uncomfortable: Sophie Birdwood, feeling the tension

Lord Byron and the lady

An art exhibition based on Byron's travels includes the work of a countess

Sophie Birdwood believes in suffering for her art. The pregnant Countess of Woolton purposely sat on the most uncomfortable stool she could find as she painted landmarks in the life of Lord Byron for an art exhibition which opens tomorrow, two weeks before the expected birth of her first child.

"The more relaxed I am the worse I paint," she says. "You need a certain tension which you only get from being not quite comfortable. If you get too relaxed you get sloppy."

Lady Woolton is one of a number of artistic young aristocrats (the Marquess of Salisbury's daughter, Lady Rose Cecil, for example, has concentrated on the less romantic subject of London's Docklands) who are determined to make their mark.

She is one of 15 international painters invited to "follow in Lord Byron's footsteps from Sintra to Missolonghi" for an exhibition at the Francis Kyle Gallery in London. "I chose only British locations from Aberdeen to Cambridge" because I'm pregnant," she says.

Lady Woolton is the daughter of Lord Birdwood and great-granddaughter of the First World War field marshal. She was Deb of the Year in 1982, and the following year was erroneously linked with Prince Andrew.

But any royal link sticks, and Lady Woolton — the wife of Simon, Earl of Woolton, with homes in London and Scotland — knows she will always bear the "former royal girlfriend" label. You don't handle the *News of the World* account for Saatchi and Saatchi — as Lady Woolton did after having followed her father into advertising — without learning that much.

She senses that somehow she has an even greater barrier to being taken seriously than the average debutante who dabbles in art. "I try to make the best of a bad job and hope that eventually I will be recognized for my creativity."

"It annoys me when people think my painting is only a hobby — it's something of an obsession. I used to feel more recreational about it, but now it's a job. I quit Saatchi to devote myself full-time to painting and I work very intensively — often for 12 hours a day. I sometimes do my best work finishing something off at one or two in the morning."

She is aware that her schedule may have to give way to the demands of a new baby, so

she has been painting frantically during the last weeks of pregnancy. Nanny and nursery stand ready.

Her work is also scheduled to appear in an exhibition of paintings on the life of Mozart — another one of Francis Kyle's theme shows — to be part of Mozartian bicentennial celebrations in New York next year — "but most of those are already done," she says with relief.

The Mozart locations she has painted are also in Britain. "He played for the King, and at the Haymarket and the Theatre Royal, and the house in Ebury Street where he stayed is still standing."

To date, Lady Woolton has had only a single "one-woman" show and was pleased to sell 85 per cent of her paintings at up to £800 a canvas. Among them were some large acrylics of garden scenes with her distinctive play of light and shadow, including follies from family estates.

Her latest are all watercolours — "people seemed to prefer them" — demonstrating the same painstakingly detailed brickwork and shadow play. They show various views of Byron's schools (Aberdeen Grammar and Harrow), university (Trinity College, Cambridge) and family seat (Newstead Abbey, Nottinghamshire).

Her uncomfortable little stool was set up near the "peachy stone" on which Byron sat and looked out towards Windsor from Harrow, and quotes: "There is a spot in the churchyard of the hill looking towards Windsor, and a tomb under a large tree bearing the name of 'Peachy' where I used to sit for hours when a boy. This was my favourite spot..."

"It was quite an eye-opener," she says of her research into Byron's life. "But I'm afraid I wasn't inspired to rush out and start reading his works. I did Keats at school."

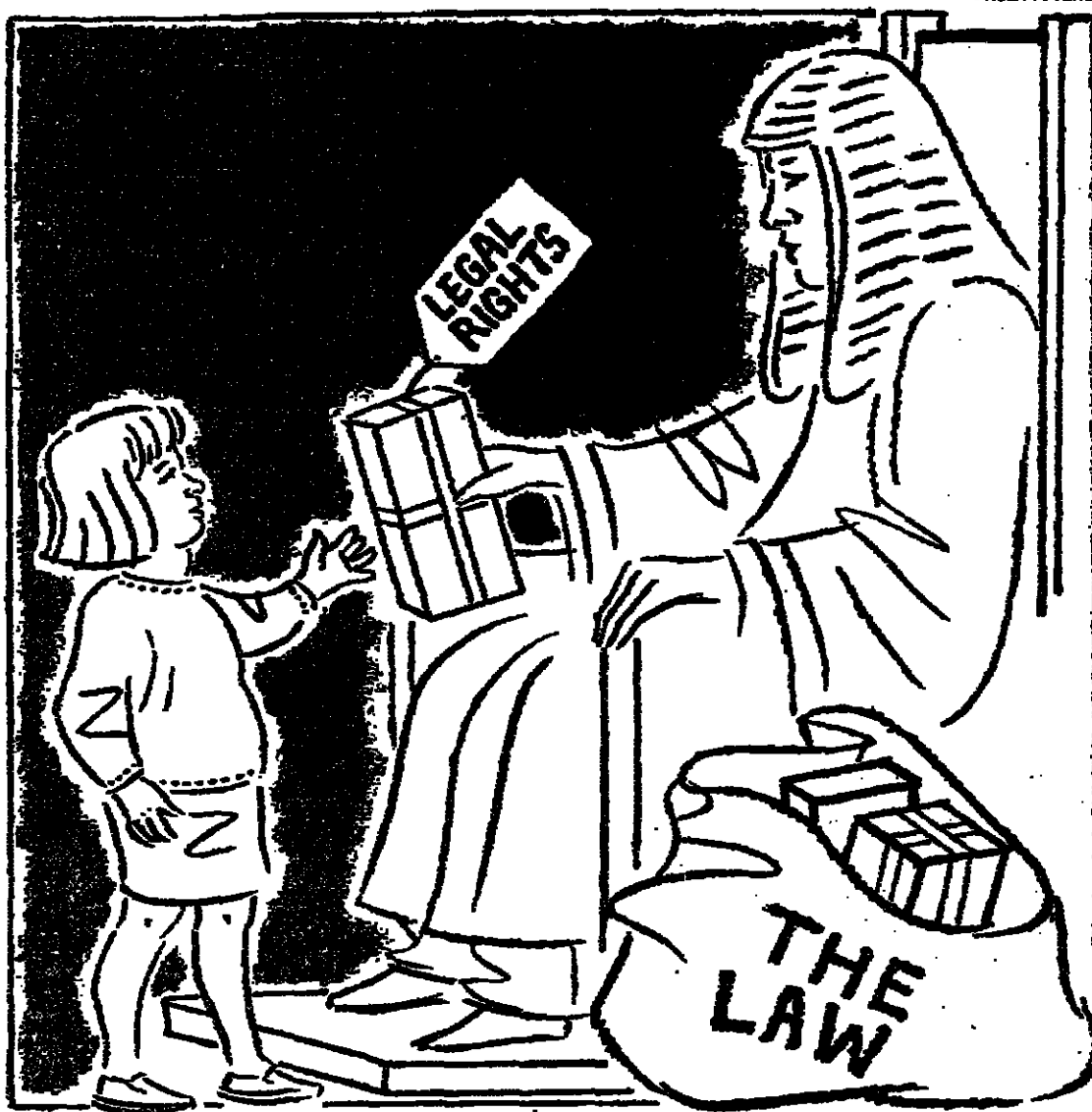
Like Lord Byron, Lady Woolton has been accused of dabbling because of her aristocratic background and connections. Maybe she suspects — as Byron did — that great art requires great suffering. And sitting uncomfortably on a stool for 12 hours a day when you are eight months pregnant is a start.

Alexandra King

How does the new Children Act affect parents? Victoria McKee talks to the judge who will implement it

A child's right to choose?

PAULA YOUENS



Children have all too often been the pawns in their parents' nasty games, the fraying rope in an emotional and legal tug-of-war. Now, under the Children Act (passed last year, although not expected to come into effect until 1991) they will be given an unprecedented opportunity to make their voices heard in courtroom battles over care, custody and "contact" — as access will henceforth be known.

But are children competent to make decisions about their future, and is the legal profession capable of correctly interpreting those decisions? In the process, will the rights of parents be eroded?

At a conference last Friday called "Ascertaining the Wishes of the Child", organized by the Child Psychotherapy Trust, Judge Joanne Bracewell — the judge in charge of implementing the Act — told her audience of lawyers, welfare officers and child psychotherapists that "in the past we have been over-concerned with the rights of parents. We are moving towards responsibilities of parents. And we are also moving in the direction of enfranchising the child in a way we have never done before."

The Act accords with a general movement over the past decade towards parental responsibilities, rather than rights. There have been attempts in Britain — as in the United States — to make parents answer for their children's crimes, while subtly undermining their authority.

There has been a powerful backlash against corporal punishment by parents (while it still goes on in some of the "best" schools), and even a move to make it illegal. The Cleveland scandal and several other highly publicized cases of child abuse provoked fears of witch hunts against parents.

Eleanor Platt, QC, was the barrister who represented the health authority in the Cleveland case. At the conference she drew attention to the recent case in which a parent who had hit a child with a wooden spoon failed to have her child's name removed from the "at risk" register, and asked: "I wonder how many of us have hit children in a moment of anger and despair, and thought 'there but for the grace of God'?"

And Judge Bracewell, the mother of two grown children, confessed to having been under the shadow of suspicion once herself — when her daughter's teacher demanded to know why all the pictures the little girl drew of her mother were scribbled in sombre black, a colour thought to reflect some psychological disturbance. "I had to explain that I was a barrister and always dressed in black," Judge Bracewell said, laughing — but the incident stays in her memory.

Nowhere are the paradoxes in current social trends more apparent than in the Children Act. The Act, Judge Bracewell explained, will enfranchise children "by permitting a child, with the court's leave, to seek an order about his own future". The child would thus be legally enfranchised only by invoking a complex legal procedure, which might elevate the case from a simple magistrate's court to a higher and more formidable tier in the hierarchy.

All this — including the appointment of a "guardian ad litem" to safeguard the child's interests — will cost money which no one seems quite sure of finding. Under the

Act, children are entitled to separate legal representation. So if, in the case of an older child, the child and the guardian ad litem (who will be appointed, Judge Bracewell envisages, in "almost every" public case, if not in private divorce proceedings) should be in dispute about what his best interests are, "there will be provision in the rules for the guardian and the child to go their separate ways, and the solicitor who will go to the child will take instructions exclusively from the child".

There was a sharp intake of breath at this, and some nervous laughter among the lawyers, who had come to learn from the psychotherapists of the Trust exactly how to take instructions from a child, and how not to misinterpret those instructions.

Implementation of the Act will be accompanied by an intensive period of training (more expensive) which will require the normally brisk and precise members of the legal profession — including magistrates and judges — to familiarize themselves with the roundabout methods needed to ascertain the often non-verbal wishes and feelings of children.

They may even, on occasion, have to trade wigs and gowns for the toys and drawing materials which patient psychotherapists use to encourage expression in disturbed youngsters.

"It will be a wholly new skill for them," Judge Bracewell observed, "and I do not think it is something one can learn how to do merely from reading the lines of print in an Act of Parliament."

She called the present system "so patchy that one cannot even say whether or not there is a general practice", and cited judges who have taken the view "that in no circumstances will they ever intervene in a child's chambers in order to find out the wishes of that child", as well as those who do so, "but feel they are ill-trained and ill-equipped for it". While the old Child Care Act made provision for taking children's wishes into account, it was in practice "more honoured in the breach than in the observance", Miss Platt commented.

In future a child deemed to be "of a sufficient age and understanding" will be able to refuse to undergo medical or psychological examination or assessment. But determining the "age of reason" is in itself a judgment of Solomon. "A child of

five may be able to understand exactly what is going on, and a child of 15 may have the mental age of a five-year-old," Judge Bracewell pointed out. And what happens, she wondered, if you suspect a girl is pregnant or carrying a venereal disease? "Secrecy is usually an important element in child abuse," Miss Platt said, so giving a child the right to refuse an examination, she suggested, can be playing into the hands of the abuser, who may have instilled in his young victim a terror of being found out.

What if the court feels it cannot protect the child except by removing it from a home the child itself most emphatically does not want to leave? (Apparently children can become "addicted" to abuse if it is the only form of affection they have known, and the person who is abusing them may be the one of whom they are most fond.) Automatic 28-day care orders such as those exercised during the Cleveland child abuse investigation will be a thing of the past under the new Act, but "we mustn't prevent the appropriate treatment of a child in need because of a desire to prevent delay", the judge said.

A frequently-voiced concern during the day was that children may

not wish to be placed in a position where they will have the deciding vote that could destroy their family forever. "Just because a child is given a vote does not mean that the party he votes for will necessarily win the election," Judge Bracewell stressed. She was always aware, she said, that "sadly, brainwashing of children does take place."

"Brainwashing can be extremely effective. A child may genuinely have the viewpoint that 'this is what I want', not because it is able to make a reasoned choice from a background of information, but because that child has been very subtly pressurized, brainwashed, by one parent against the other."

Her experience is that "generally, although not exclusively, it is the mother who brainwashes the child against the absent father, the mother who exercises her grievances about the marriage and uses the child as the weapon against the father."

What perhaps less a sinister indictment of the "woman scorned" than a simple consequence of the fact that it is usually mothers who are left with the weekly grind of looking after the child, while the father is he-who-comes-with-treats at the weekend? Judge Bracewell clearly did not find that an excuse. "Many parents manage to put the welfare of their children first," she said firmly, "and all the research has shown that children do better after divorce when their parents manage to keep up amicable communication."

While Miss Platt said she was dubious about placing a child in a position of being forced to state a preference between Mummy and Daddy, or natural parents and foster parents, she also doubted the wisdom of court decisions which do not take account of the child's wishes.

"Only last week in the High Court, with parents fighting an entrenched battle, the case resulted in a change of care and control for a boy of 15 who then proceeded to run away several times — once in the middle of the night," she reported. "And in another case a 15 and 13-year-old were meant to live with their mother but they kept going back to live with their father. What could the mother do?"

Judge Bracewell admits that implementing the Children Act will require a very delicate balancing act. Ultimately, she feels, the new law is only reflecting the voice that children are allowed in happy families without recourse to any Act of Parliament, and it will lead to "far more flexibility, tailored to the needs of each individual case."

"It seems to me that we are moving towards divorce becoming the end of the proceedings rather than the beginning," Judge Bracewell told the conference, "so that... we may not be able to obtain a decree nisi until the children and the finances are sorted out." That in itself, she predicts, may dramatically lower the divorce rate.

She does not worry that the pendulum is swinging too far, and too erratically, in its attempt to compensate for past injustices. "But I do feel that in seeking to enfranchise children we're moving away from the rights of parents towards the rights of children," she acknowledges. "Parents have to understand that as well. In order to listen to the voice of the child we have to educate parents too."

Fear, but only a little loathing, on the icy trail

"THE run is clear. The next rider is David Pritchard," intoned Lieutenant Colonel Digby Willoughby over the public address system. The starting bell tolled. Alois, the attendant, took his feet away from the runners and my toboggan took off at an alarming speed down the sheet-ice track.

We novices had already attended the annual Willoughby lecture about the horrors of Switzerland's Cresta Run. We needed only to look at him. Earlier this season, he took the notorious Shuttlecock corner too fast, catapulted out, landed on the back of his neck, somersaulted in the snow and landed on the back of his neck again. It broke.

Luckily, the broken bone did not sever his spinal cord, so he was back on his feet in a neck brace. He told us mischievously that he did not want to scrape our flesh off the ice. To emphasize the point, he showed us a crash helmet that looked as if Trotsky's murderer had had a go at it. He tipped it up and blood (actually blood-orange juice) poured out. I had been warned about the stunt. Last year, one of the women riders had not. She fainted and later withdrew from the race.

The run is roughly half a mile of sheet ice running down a steep mountainside, with corners to navigate and high ice walls on each side, between which an inexperienced rider ricochets like a ping-pong ball between bat and table. The toboggans are made of heavy steel and have no steering mechanism, though dragging a foot behind you will help to alter direction. You lie, head first, on the toboggan and hurtle along the track, your body about four inches above the ice. Good riders reach speeds of 80 miles an hour.

I am not a good rider. Good riders go from top to bottom in less than 30 seconds. I had to endure 73.46 seconds of sheer terror.

It is not like skiing; you cannot stop and regain your composure. You just go faster and faster. There are brakes of



Mary Ann Sieghart conquers the feared Cresta Run — under a male pseudonym

sorts — jagged metal "rakes" on the toes of your boots — but although I dug them in as hard as I could at the beginning, I still had the sensation that the toboggan was taking off underneath me. As, indeed, it was. Real men do not use rakes. The rest of us are grateful to be able to knock 20 or 30 miles an hour off our top speed. But even 50 miles an hour is frightening enough when you are so close to the ice and a wall is looming.

It is certainly too fast for the novice to be able to take any sensible decisions. I had managed to remember the formula



Ice scream: the writer challenges the Cresta Run

for getting round Shuttlecock corner: dig in your left toe and wrench the toboggan to the left. But after that, I was baffled by the speed with which things were happening; all I seemed able to do was cling on grimly and hope I would reach the bottom intact.

I was wearing a crash helmet, metal hand guards and pads on my elbows and knees. Gravity was ensuring that the toboggan would go down "straightish"; it could not hit a wall at more than a slight angle. A couple of times I banged the side wall so hard that my body was thrown in the air; but I held on and, luckily, landed back on the toboggan, not the ice. All I suffered was a ripped sweater and a bruised shoulder.

At the bottom, the run turns uphill long enough for the toboggan to stop. Rarely have I felt so relieved. Greeted with a glass of glühwein to counteract the inevitable shakes, I was immediately asked: "Did you enjoy it? Would you do it again?"

The answers are — surprisingly, perhaps — no and yes. I cannot really claim to have enjoyed it. The exhilaration was far surpassed by the terror. But it need not be like that. If I could learn to master the toboggan, it would be fun. It is the lack of control which

is more panic-inducing than the speed.

Men, when they first go down, feel the same. But they are able to have another go immediately, and another, and another so as not to lose their nerve. Me, I'll have to wait a whole year.

The previous night, at dinner, I had sat next to Lt-Col Willoughby, formerly of the Gurkhas, now secretary of the St Moritz Tobogganing Club, alias the Cresta Club. "Are you really going to announce me as David Pritchard when I go down the run tomorrow?" I asked. Indeed he was. Women do not go down very well at the Cresta Club (motto in the changing room: "Where women cease from troubling

and the wicked are at rest"). They are allowed in the clubhouse as long as they are with a club member. In some respects, then, it is more open than, say, Lord's. But what is said for women is that they used to be treated as equals. There were some fearsome lady riders until 1929 when women were stopped from holding membership. Too many, apparently, were getting hurt. Now only once a year, on the last day of the season, just before the course is broken up by bulldozers, are they allowed one run.

Officially, women still do not ride at all. Lt-Col Willoughby announces the event over the Tannoy as a "fun and games" race. Each rider is

given the name of a member for the day. When the timesheet was printed, it was as if I had not gone down at all — and my husband had ridden a shamefully slow run.

I had rashly promised my husband that I would try it this year for the first time, and had spent months dreading the ride. None the less, I was grateful afterwards to have had the chance to ride, and wished I had been able to go down often enough to get the hang of it.

A number of other riders clearly felt the same. This season, there were moves among members to ask for one more day a year for women. In a season of two months, it does not seem excessive.

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The Missions to Seamen
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Pick of the Week

CHRISTIE'S

IN THE 1950s, Picasso gave four drawings to the photographer David Duncan which will now be sold to raise money for children with AIDS in Romania. 47% of whom are believed to have contracted the disease due to the shortage of disposable syringes in the country's hospitals. It is hoped that more than £70,000 will be secured to relieve their plight and the proceeds will be distributed by Amici-Cares, a leading USA humanitarian organization which has already airlifted considerable medical supplies into the country since the December revolution.

The drawing is included in the sale of Impressionist and Modern Watercolours and Drawings at Christie's, King Street, on Tuesday, 3 April at 11.00 a.m. For further information on this and any other sales in the next week, please telephone Christie's 24-hour Auction Information Service on (01) 839 9060.

8 King Street, London SW1
85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7
164-166 Bath Street, Glasgow

Pablo Picasso: *Le Fumeur aux Pipes*. Coloured wax crayons on paper with decorated frame. Signed, dated 12.5.57 and inscribed 'Cannes A.M. Pour David Duncan' 8 x 6 in. Estimate: £30,000 - 40,000

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.640 (+0.0430)
W German mark
2.7786 (+0.0367)
Exchange index
87.9 (+1.8)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1768.7 (-26.4)
FT-SE 100
2247.9 (-36.0)
USM (Datastream)
142.18 (-0.36)

Brokers gave warning of LUI reserves a year ago

By Neil Bennett

RESERVES at two subsidiaries of London United Investments, the suspended insurance company, were discovered to be below the Government's minimum requirements more than a year before the Department of Trade took any action against the group.

A confidential letter in January 1989 from Marsh & McLennan, the United States insurer, warned clients of LUI's position. "It should be noted," it said, "that while Kingscroft and Lime Street have an excess of net admissible assets over liabilities this is less than the DTI required minimum margin."

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, is expected to face

questions in the House of Commons this week over why the DTI failed to act earlier against London United, when the problems over its reserves were well known within the insurance industry.

The letter was part of Marsh's policy of keeping its clients informed about LUI's position. Later that year Marsh, which owns CT Bowring, the Lloyd's broker, told clients it would only place business with LUI after receiving express instructions to do so.

Alexander Howden, another Lloyd's broker, also warned clients of LUI's position. "We indicated we were concerned with trends in the company, and indicated we would seek alternative quotes," said Mr Reg Larkin, a director. "All we did was analyse the figures that

were public knowledge." Last week, the Department of Trade ordered Walbrook, LUI's main subsidiary, to stop taking on new business while Tillinghast, the actuarial consultant, prepares a report on the group's reserves. At the same time, the company's shares were suspended at 30p.

Kingscroft and Lime Street, originally known as Kraft Insurance and Louisville Insurance respectively, are two of six LUI underwriting subsidiaries which have stopped paying claims until the review is carried out.

London United bought them and changed their names in September 1988.

In the past, they had done most of their business via HS Weavers, LUI's underwriting agent. How-

ever, when LUI acquired them, they had stopped writing new business and moved to a run-off position, where they were merely paying out on claims.

Even at the time of the acquisition, LUI admitted the possibility that the companies may run short of funds.

"It is anticipated that any adverse development will be sheltered by the existing surplus and reinsurance arrangements; however, should this not be so there is no commitment for London United to give any support," it said.

The two companies, like the rest of LUI, specialised in liability insurance in the United States.

In recent years, their reserves have been seriously depleted by a sharp rise in the number and size of

claims from asbestosis, environmental damage and medical and legal malpractice suits.

But Kingscroft and Lime Street were not included in the actuarial review which the Department of Trade and Industry ordered LUI to carry out last year.

This instead focused on Walbrook, LUI's main underwriting subsidiary, and El Paso and Desert Insurance, two other offshoots, and gave them a clean bill of health. However, the DTI did order further reviews by Tillinghast for 1989 and 1990.

It was when Tillinghast produced its initial report for 1989 that the DTI finally moved in and suspended Walbrook. It will decide on further action when the full report is published in two weeks.

Meanwhile London's insurance broking community has been reacting swiftly to limit the damage caused by the loss of the market's dominant liability insurer. With the loss of Weavers, brokers are turning to other liability underwriters like Lexington, the US group, and Generali, the Italian insurer, in the hope they will fill some of the gap. "Perhaps this means we will have an opportunity to do some broking again," said one senior broker.

Brokers are also preparing themselves for a flurry of lawsuits from United States companies which find themselves uninsured or who are faced with unpaid claims. Most hope to fight any cases with written evidence that they warned clients of LUI's position.

EC ministers and bankers in Ireland

Irish see a softer line by Major

From Our Own Correspondent

EUROPEAN Community finance ministers claim they may be winning Britain round to their view of economic and monetary union after detecting a new conciliatory tone from Mr John Major, the Chancellor.

Mr Major begged to differ, while conceding: "there may be a different tone, but the substance has not changed." Britain remained "not remotely persuaded" that the three-stage road to EMU, widely endorsed by EC governments, would produce a flexible and democratically answerable system capable of curbing inflation.

His Irish hosts nonetheless spoke enthusiastically of "a considerable degree of agreement on the design of a future economic and monetary union" after the talks, held together with the governors of the 12 central banks.

A statement issued by the Irish presidency of the EC said there was now broad support for the creation of a federally structured central banking system, which would be answerable to politicians.

This would remove a considerable though undefined portion of sovereignty from the Bank of England and its 11 EC equivalents.

But Mr Major reiterated Britain's scepticism over a central banking system, and dismissed calls for strict sanctions against high-spending governments under a future monetary union.

With varying degrees of cautiousness, the Germans, Dutch, Italians and Irish all said they sensed a change in Britain's lone stand against the consensus on EMU.

The Chancellor denied that Britain's entry into the ERM had even been raised, but he softened Mrs Thatcher's defiant rhetoric by conceding that fewer obstacles besides the British high inflation rate now remain.

Britain wants France and Italy to remove capital controls, Germany and others to open their financial services market and all EC governments to stop bailing out inefficient industries. Mr Major implied these conditions are now being met.

Bundesbank calls for 2:1 ostmark rate

From Peter Gailford, Ashford Castle, County Mayo

THE Bundesbank is proposing a two-to-one exchange rate for ostmarks against Deutschmarks, with a concessional one-to-one rate for the first DM2,000 of every East German citizen's savings.

Herr Karl-Otto Pöhl, the Bundesbank president, confirmed during talks between European Community finance ministers and central bank governors that his bank and its affiliated regional banks in Germany have formally endorsed the proposals.

In a defiant message aimed partly at Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who advocates greater concessions on the German currency question, Herr Pöhl said: "It would be good to introduce a little expertise and realistic economics into this debate."

A straight one-to-one rate between the two currencies would be "totally unacceptable," he said after the lake-side talks ended.

Economic analysis had shown that East German companies, heavily indebted to the national bank, would be unable to repay loans if the swap were at one-to-one and workers could end up unemployed.

Herr Pöhl also expressed a

certain optimism that the announcement, leaked to the German press last week, might serve to strengthen the European Monetary System today.

The Bundesbank president is clearly concerned to dampen speculation that too generous an exchange rate between the two German currencies might fuel inflation and upset the EMS.

The crucial support of the Bonn coalition government for the planned exchange rates is far from assured. But Herr Theo Waigel, the federal finance minister, said after the talks that it was "economically realistic and reasonable," adding that Bonn "could not avoid the report" in which the plans are laid out.

Dr Waigel's cautious support is itself a step forward, as he heads the Christian Socialists from Bavaria, who are affiliated to the Chancellor's Christian Democrats in the coalition.

By granting equal parity to the first 2,000 ostmarks of each East German citizen's savings, Herr Pöhl estimates East German spending power would increase by DM32 billion (DM2,000 per head of population in the German Democratic Republic).

This would give an indica-

tion of the initial inflationary impact of German currency union on a united Germany. This impact would soon be offset by a rise in productivity, he believed.

Defending the new rate, Herr Pöhl said the ostmark "wasn't even worth 50 pfennigs" and that the move amounted not to a devaluation but to a re-evaluation. Recent estimates put the effective going rate between the two currencies at one to five.

The normal two-to-one exchange rate will stand for all other money in the GDR. The Bundesbank president added that East German pensioners would have their pensions calculated at 70 per cent of their previous salaries.

News of the two-to-one swap plan, which had leaked on Friday in West Germany, has caused a furore on both sides of the German border where speculation had been growing that Bonn would offer the more favourable one-for-one rate. The ostmark is worth 20 per cent of the Deutschmark on the black market.

● **SOFIA** Bulgaria is devaluing the leva against the dollar to below the unofficial rate, effectively killing the black market. (Reuters).

Sterling faces more fire

By Colin Narborough

THE apparent victory of the independent Bundesbank's monetary caution over Bonn's politically motivated preference for a one-for-one conversion of ostmarks to Deutschmarks is likely to boost West German markets today and could put the pound under more pressure.

The mark could strengthen within the European Monetary System when markets reopen but it is too early to tell if it will take upward pressure off interest rates. Fears of the inflationary impact of Ger-

man monetary union have contributed to higher interest rates in Europe, with Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Bank of England governor, saying last week that the world could be entering into a new phase of higher rates.

The West German markets were already picking up at the end of last week, buoyed by the European Commission's forecast of 4.5 per cent growth in West Germany this year and 5 per cent next.

Average bond yields fell 10 basis points to 8.73 per cent

between Thursday and the end of the week, while the DAX index of leading West German shares rose 14.66 on Friday to 1,968.55. The mark was little changed on Friday, closing 0.60 pfennig firmer against the pound at DM2.7786.

Herr Pöhl has made clear that he has to accept the political imperatives behind monetary and economic integration of the two Germanies, but that the Bundesbank will not abandon its prime task of monetary stability.

Rey and Cabra Estates likely to link

By Matthew Bond

THE partnership between Mr Werner Rey, the Swiss businessman, and Cabra Estates, the quoted British property company, is likely to become more formalized. Negotiations are thought to be nearing a conclusion that could see Mr Rey acquiring as much as 29 per cent of Cabra.

Both parties are interested in developing the entire

Battersea power station site, ownership of which is currently split by a railway line. To one side lies the power station and 20 acres of land owned by Mr John Broome's Alton Group, while to the other lies 14 acres owned by Parc Securities, Mr Rey's private company.

Mr Rey and Cabra have contemplated joining forces to acquire the entire Battersea

site. But Mr Broome, who improved his financial position with the sale last week of Alton Towers to Pearson for £60 million, may now be able to press ahead alone with a proposed £229 million leisure complex. However, he has acknowledged that the power station will need a further £50 million spending on it before work can even begin.

After the Pearson sale, Mr

Broome said a co-ordinated development of the site was in the interest of all concerned.

"What would be wrong is for Parc to develop its site in isolation and for us to develop our site in isolation." He confirmed that he would be seeking a partner to develop the land around the power station. Mr Broome did not rule out the possibility of further talks with Mr Rey.

Lump-sum payment from pension fund said to approach £1m

Birch eyes record golden handshake

By Our City Staff

THE former chairman of Ward White, Mr Philip Birch, who is hoping to negotiate his way into the record books with the warmest golden handshake in British corporate history, has already received a payment said to be approaching £1 million after his departure from the board.

The payment was made by the pension fund, rather than by Boots, which took over Ward White last year. Mr Birch was just into minimum pensionable age when he was shown the door by Boots, and he took a portion of his pension as a lump sum. He is now drawing his six-figure pension, built up over 19 years.

The pension payment will not form part of the golden handshake from Boots, which is alarmed at the size of the payment claimed, and even more alarmed at a back-of-the-envelope calculation which could, in theory, drive compensation towards £15 million.

Mr Birch conducted Ward White behind the safety barrier of a five-year rolling contract under which he received a salary of just above £115,000 plus incentive payments related to the company's performance. It is the incentive element which is causing the headache, for to arrive at a final payment it is necessary to estimate, five years ahead, not only profits but also capital employed. Mr

Birch is entitled to two-thirds of 1 per cent of the amount by which profits exceed a 10 per cent return on net tangible assets. It sounds complicated and does not sound a lot, but it could have presented Mr Birch with an annual pay cheque of £1 million by the mid-nineties.

The eventual settlement is likely to be in the £3 million to £5 million range, which would set a British record. Mr Birch has now turned his attention as to how to deal with the dissident shareholders of Aquascutum. He is to be joined on the board by Sir Peter Carey, the former permanent secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Swedes to bid £500m for LET

By Our City Staff



Millionaire stakes: Peter Beckwith, vice-chairman, left, and his brother John, chairman

THE chairman of London & Edinburgh Trust, Mr John Beckwith, and his brother Peter, vice-chairman, could make more than £40 million each from the sale of their 24 per cent stake to SPP. Sweden's largest life insurance and pension company.

Assuming no regulatory hiccups, SPP will today launch a bid worth almost £500 million for the development company. An offer worth 220p a share would value LET's ordinary equity at about £410 million, but separate offers for the preference shares plus the likelihood of a second interim dividend should take the total value to more than £490 million.

LET shares closed on Friday at 175p and the bid will be recommended by the board.

The company is expected to keep one London quote, with no offer expected for one class of its three preference share issues, a move aimed at facilitating future fund raising. LET is SPP's fourth big venture into the international property market since the Swedish authorities relaxed their controls on overseas investment.

Last year, SPP took 18.5 per cent in a new company led by Volvo to use the car maker's extensive property interests as the basis for a potential £2 billion property fund to be invested throughout the world. Wasa, the stock market favourite to buy LET, also participated in the venture.

In February this year, SPP invested about \$250 million in a \$2 billion dollar fund set up by Prudential Assurance of America to invest in landmark buildings.

SPP already has a substantial presence in London. With another Scandinavian group, NCC Property, SPP is spending £200 million developing 650,000 sq ft of offices in the East India Docks.

Berners take stake to 80%

By Our City Staff

THE family stake in Mr Elliott Berners's private company, Chelsfield, has been increased from 50 per cent to 80 per cent, according to the latest offer document from Pall Mall Properties, the 50-50 joint venture between Chelsfield and P&O.

Pall Mall last week increased its hostile bid for Laing Properties to £490 million, raising its cash offer to 725p per ordinary share. The bid was also made final.

Mr Brian Chilver, Laing chairman, believes Mr Berners's increased stake shows he believes Pall Mall is on to a good deal. Mr Chilver will tell Laing shareholders the new offer is still at a 20 per cent discount to the 910p net asset value in Laing's defence document. He will urge shareholders to reject the bid.

Pall Mall now has 30.2 per cent of Laing and is expected to seek meetings with family and charitable trusts that between them own about 38 per cent.

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	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sale
Australia \$	2.06	2.17
Austria Sch	20.36	19.15
Belgium Fr	60.80	59.70
Canada \$	1.295	1.286
Denmark Kr	11.08	10.48
Finland Mk	6.91	6.81
France Fr	1.78	1.78
Germany DM	2.318	2.328
Greece Dr	280	280
Hong Kong \$	13.45	12.56
Italy Lit	1,094	1,024
Japan Yen	2145	2015
Netherlands Gld	273	257
Norway Kr	3.28	3.08
Portugal Esc	11.26	10.80
South Africa Rd	2.08	2.02
Spain Ptas	4.75	4.35
Sweden Kr	1.85	1.78
Switzerland Fr	10.50	9.80
Turkey Lira	2,572	2,425
USA \$	4515	3970
Yugoslavia Dnr	1.75	1.55

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 230.2 (February)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TEMPUS

Glaxo fire casts a shadow over SB

WHAT a difference a day makes. Almost three weeks ago, SmithKline Beecham's Mr Bob Bauman presented profits at the lower end of expectations and left analysts with some nagging doubts.

Just 24 hours later, up popped another American, Dr Ernest Mario, now running the rival Glaxo group. Mario's upbeat delivery of excellent profits and positive news on Glaxo's emerging drugs portfolio lit a fire under his share price. The contrast between the two presentations was no help to SB's.

In a few days, Glaxo shares were 85p to the good at 821p while SmithKline Beecham's were down 45p to 485p. The market action contains some important signals for both sets of shareholders.

The negative sentiment surrounding SB will be tested on Wednesday at what should be a significant gathering of analysts to hear a company review of the products in its research and development pipeline.

As things stand, most of the growth in the next year or two will be driven by the antibiotic Augmentin. The future for SB's other leading products, including its best-seller

Tagamet, the ulcer treatment, is clouded by well-aided uncertainties about the short-unexpired patent lives. The heart drug Emase, for which there were high hopes, now appears to face increased competition from rivals.

SB will hopefully be identifying the key areas of its R&D spend and those which will be put on the back burner. But ahead of the meeting, there are no great expectations that rabbits will be pulled from hats in the shape of new products.

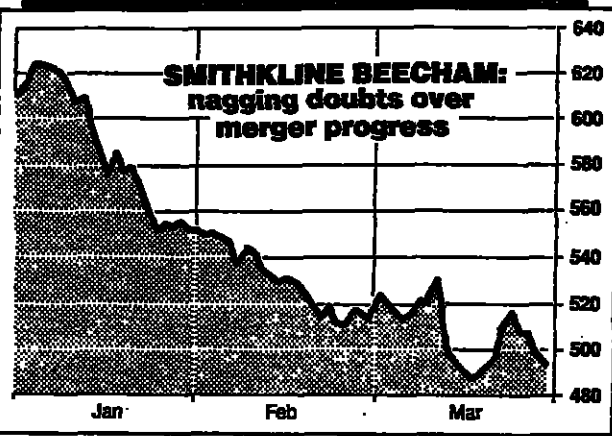
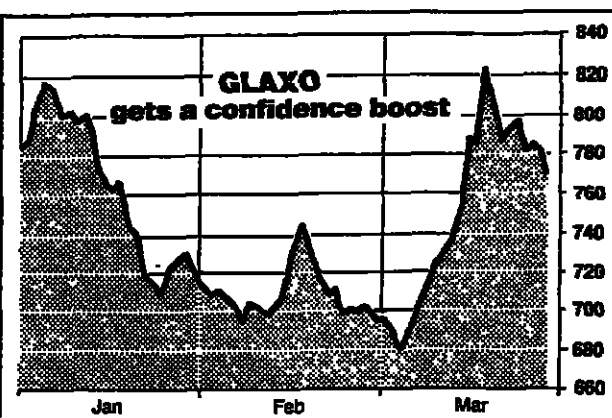
SB insists that its merger is proceeding according to plan. But evidence is sorely needed — progress on the much-delayed cosmetics sale, for example.

Bauman and his board have opted for a root and branch appraisal of all parts of the group on a "can we justify this" basis. The approach is more painstaking than a quick fix from speedy disposals and closures. But the size of the restructuring provision, a cool £500 million, is a clear indication that sweeping reforms will emerge — eventually.

SB shares are still attractive, perhaps even oversold at current levels. But investors have



Upbeat: Ernest Mario of Glaxo



Test: Bob Bauman of SB

a choice between the lower-rated SB, where most of the 15 per cent annual growth will come from restructuring, and Glaxo, whose somewhat faster progress is underpinned by strong performance from its existing products. Glaxo's new product portfolio is exceptionally strong while SB's is uncertain.

SB's A shares sell for about 12 times earnings, against Glaxo's on a 13.5 p/e adjusted for different year-ends. The premium looks justified.

T&N

SO many industrialists complain that the City prevents them from taking a long-term view that it is refreshing to come across a company which seems completely impervious to the pressure to perform in the short term. After failing to deliver any growth at all since its bitterly contested takeover of AE in 1986, T&N has embarked on a \$190 million bid for a US component maker, JP Industries, which will ensure a further two years of flat or declining earnings per share.

T&N sees JP Industries as "an ideal fit" because it makes

engine bearings, pistons, gaskets and camshafts, a mirror of T&N's European car parts operations.

Actually, JP Industries has been cobbled together relatively recently from businesses cast off by US corporations. Readers with long memories will recall that its camshaft machining subsidiary, Weyburn Engineering, was a stock market shooting star over here until its acquisition by Carborundum in 1977.

Mr Colin Hope, T&N's chairman, is keen for its tender offer to succeed, because the acquisition of JP Industries will give it critical mass in the US. This will enable it to take advantage of the trend for the car giants such as GM, Ford and, increasingly, Toyota and Nissan to source components on a worldwide basis.

However, two-fifths of JP Industries' £250 million turnover is in engine bearings and more than half its sales are to the aftermarket rather than for new cars. Mr Hope, who used to work for Dunlop, is familiar with what happens to demand when parts last longer and do not have to be replaced as

frequently. Bearings sales in the US aftermarket are growing at less than 2 per cent a year.

At the expense of further underperformance in its share price, T&N will get away the £127 million two-stage rights issue to finance the deal. That will leave the shares at 171p on a prospective p/e ratio of 7, assuming profits of £105 million and unchanged earnings of 24p in 1990. At least the silver lining of T&N's asbestos connection is that few predators will touch it.

Property shares

SOMETHING rather curious has happened in the property sector. The world has not ended.

In fact, there are growing signs that many companies could weather the storm, a fact that will confound those responsible for the shares in some companies sitting on a discount to assets approaching 50 per cent.

There are signs that the good — or less bad — news is beginning to outweigh the

truly awful.

There was no shortage of the truly awful variety last week. Citygrove's restatement of its 1988 profits, whereby pre-tax profits of £5.5 million suddenly became £1.64 million, will take a lot of beating and confirmed the pain now being felt in the retail park sector.

There is also a steady trickle of provisions, which need to be watched closely. Fro-more's provision of £3.4 million was largely taken against a Shaftsbury Avenue office building bought only six months earlier for about £18 million, the latest pointer to the fact that the over-heated West End market might be cooling uncomfortably quickly.

With interest write-offs at London & Metropolitan and the delay of figures from debt-ridden Priest Mariani, there is clearly no room for complacency.

But the quiet groundswell of better news is there, and growing. It started a few weeks ago when Waters, which specializes in supposedly one of the worst-hit sectors, City offices, reported a growth in net assets per share — the

engine room of the property sector — of 13 per cent. There was relief when Capital & Counties followed this up with an 8 per cent improvement.

Ten days ago, there was incredulity when Laing Properties unveiled a 31 per cent improvement in net asset value as part of its defence against the bid from P&O and Chelsfield. But since then there has been a 21 per cent increase from Slough (including a 17 per cent growth in the value of its British industrial portfolio), and increases in the 22-32 per cent range from the respected smaller companies of Claydon, Derwent Valley and Capital & Regional.

All these revaluations have come from companies with prudent management, who would acknowledge that yields have slipped — in some regions and sectors dramatically.

These revaluations do not have to be carried out again until the end of this year, by which time even the pessimists believe interest rates could finally be going down.

It could be the right time to buy selectively.

Edited by John Bell

US NOTEBOOK

Fed must toughen up to bear down on interest rates

The Federal Reserve Board faces a grim fact: it cannot lower interest rates at present by easing monetary policy.

Revelation in the US bond market against inflation has reached a point where monetary "ease" is seen as a threat and produces lower bond prices.

Since last November, the Fed has promoted and now produced a rapid acceleration of the growth rate of the monetary base (the sum of currency notes and coins plus the banks' reserves).

The monetary base rose 3.1 per cent in the year to November 1989. Thereafter, as it reached to political pressure and to the force of events which were driving short-term interest rates through the roof worldwide, the Fed boosted the growth rate of the monetary base to more than 9 per cent.

In the past three months it has risen 10.8 per cent a year — an extraordinary explosion. Yet this has not produced a fall in interest rates, either short-term or long-term. Since last November, the T-bill rate has risen from 7.6 per cent to 8.0 per cent and the long-term bond yield has risen from 8.1 per cent to 8.6 per cent.

Meanwhile, the commercial banks are reducing their lending for business and are devoting more of their money to securities.

A point has been reached where the most likely way for the Fed to reduce interest rates is actually to toughen its policy stance.

This may already be happening. In the past three days, the Federal Funds rate has mysteriously started to rise, advancing to 8.35 per cent after being static at 8.25 per cent since January 6.

Some say this is "quarter end pressure" on intra-bank cash. Indeed, that may be so, but a tougher stand by the Fed has already been accepted by several governors as a requirement for a more buoyant bond market. The Fed also resisted pressure to reduce its key rate when the yen was in trouble.

Of great concern to the

bond market — and thus an impediment to lower interest rates — has been the continuing strength of commodities futures prices.

The Commodity Research Bureau index of futures prices has risen from its 1989 low of 222 to 238. More ominously, the index of spot commodity prices has risen from its low of 260 in January to 268. The prices of non-ferrous metals have been particularly strong and this has only added to the pessimism in bonds — something that translates directly into the whole structure of US interest rates.

On Thursday last week, the Fed was given another nasty lesson in policy. Having bolted up over 150 yen on Wednesday, the dollar suffered a slight flapping spell, falling back to ¥156.5. This resulted in a savage sale of bonds, pushing the price of the long bond down nearly 1½ points — a sizable shock.

In Tokyo, the Bank of Japan has an equal and opposite problem.

When the yen falls, the stock market and the bond market crumble. We saw that on Friday. After its brief decline in New York, the dollar rebounded to ¥157.6 in Tokyo. Result? A drop of more than 1,000 points on the Nikkei and a rise in Japanese bond yields to 7.36 per cent, a high level by Japanese standards.

These episodes exemplify a problem most of the central banks have struggled with for two years. Everyone wants to have a stable currency and all the central banks have engaged in policy of competitive interest rate increases. They have driven short-term rates up 100 per cent since mid-1988.

They have produced conditions which are highly inimical to high asset values. Result? A worldwide "garage sale" of bonds, stocks, property and gold, and a loss of wealth by now at least double that in October 1987.

We must expect more.

Maxwell Newton
New York

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GILT-EDGED

Outlook review brings foreign factors in focus

The gilt market's experience in January showed that the British market cannot "buck the trend" of government bond markets elsewhere. The domestic outlook was quite positive — underlying inflation was leveling off, the current account deficit declining and sterling recovering from its lows. And yet, despite out-performing all other leading government bond markets, gilt investors suffered capital losses.

This episode neatly illustrated the increasing international nature of large institutional bond portfolios. A profitable reading of the gilt outlook now requires greater attention to the wider picture.

Reports from Tokyo speak of Japanese life insurers (with overseas assets of about £110 billion) doubling their weighting in Europe. Naturally, the figures are rough and ready but this could mean new investment funds of, say, £15 billion for European assets.

Only a fraction, if any, may come into gilts but it portrays a new attitude. On a broader scale, Japanese balance-of-payments statistics show investment in foreign bonds growing from \$73 billion in 1987 to \$94 billion in 1989.

In Britain, pension funds apparently lowered their holdings of British and overseas fixed income securities from 11 per cent at the beginning of 1988 to 7 per cent at end-1989.

The interesting change, though, was that overseas bonds comprised 3 per cent of total portfolios (and about 40 per cent of bond holdings) on December 31, 1989, compared with nil two years earlier.

In America, the use of international (non-US dollar) bond portfolios to spread risk is gaining acceptance. Taking

US Erisa funds alone, allocations to non-US bonds more than tripled from \$3.1 billion to \$10.8 billion between end-1985 and end-1989.

But how great is the impact of overseas influences upon the British gilt market? Using quarterly data for British, US, Japanese (JGB), German (Bund) and French (OAT) government bond yields over the past five years, foreign yield changes "explain" about half the movements in British yields.

The correlation with Bunds was the strongest (0.72) and with US Treasuries, perhaps surprisingly, the weakest (0.43). An unexpected finding was the strong correlation between changes in gilt and JGB yields (0.69).

Taking account solely of the changes in yields overseas from January 1 to last week, our model predicted a rise of 140 basis points in gilt yields. The actual rise was 200 basis points. Thus, it seems that only 60 basis points of the increase can be attributed to domestic as opposed to international influences.

Given the importance of overseas markets for gilts, we need to examine where those markets are going. The most encouraging news may come from Europe. We believe the inflationary impact of German unification may have been overstated.

First, extra East German workers may lessen the chances of sustained upward pressure on wages.

Second, a strong mark means competition from cheap imports will limit the scope for price rises.

There is undoubtedly a political risk premium built into Bund yields at present, but that may fade in due

course: 10-year Bund yields at about 8.5 per cent seem good value.

Furthermore, both French and Dutch government bonds look cheap relative to fundamentals, with less risk. Both countries are committed to strong currency policies and have better inflation prospects than Germany. Neither country has the risks presently associated with inflation, the budget deficit or the political scene in Germany. Yield spreads have narrowed over the past few years but there may be further to go.

The outlook for JGBs depends heavily upon the yen. Last year, there were strong fundamental reasons for the yen's decline. Although market sentiment has weighed heavily against the Japanese currency (and may continue to do so), the fundamentals seem nothing like as bearish as they were and may even be turning slowly positive. A yen rebound would almost certainly entail a drop in JGB yields.

Regrettably, these glimmers of hope may not extend to US Treasuries. We concur with Mr Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve chief, that the "lowest point" has probably been past for near-term economic activity. While we do not foresee a strong upsurge in growth, the recovery may be stronger than many now think — with bearish implications for US Treasury yields.

All this adds up to an unexciting but probably positive influence from abroad. The best that can be said for domestic factors is that most of the bad news may now be known.

Dick Howard
Bank Julius Baer

Corona for European listings

By Colin Campbell
Mining Correspondent

CORONA Corporation, the Canadian mining group with interests in 11 North American gold mines, will shortly list its shares on seven European stock exchanges.

The decision to list on — among others — the Paris, Zurich, Frankfurt and Brussels stock exchanges — recognises that at least 30 per cent of Corona's equity is held by various European investors.

However, Corona said it was not applying for a London listing because of the cost involved. London-based investors were in any case well versed in how to trade in Corona shares, it added.

In an investment presentation to London mining analysts, Corona said the reserve life of its principal ore bodies was at least 20 years, and that it was one of the lowest-cost gold miners in North America.

It suggested the average cost of producing one ounce of gold at Corona would be \$210 an ounce from an expected 1990 gold and gold equivalent production of 690,000 ounces.

It noted the recent fall in the world gold price, but said that even at \$300 an ounce 80 per cent of its interests would still be economic. At \$280, 68 per cent of its operations would still make money.

By comparison, at a \$300 world gold price only 72 per cent of Western gold production would be economic, while at \$200 only 30 per cent of non-Communist production would be viable.

Corona recently won a legal battle against Lac Minerals, the Canadian mining group, for ownership of the Williams gold mine in Ontario. It is also investigating properties in Greenland.

Corona's shares traded at C\$94 each on Friday.

THE TIMES

STOCK WATCH

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Peckham Building Society

INVESTMENT INTEREST RATE INCREASE 1st April 1990

With effect from 1st April, Peckham Building Society has increased the interest rates payable on some investment accounts as follows:

ACCOUNT TYPE	CONTRIBUTION RATE	GROSS DIVIDEND RATE	NET YIELD RATE	NET YIELD RATE
PLATINUM PORTFOLIO	11.00	14.00	11.20	11.57
NON-RESIDENT SUPERSHARE	14.00	PAID DIVIDEND	14.00	14.35
SUPERSHARE (2ND ISSUE)	11.00	(Based on new investment)	11.47	11.85

ALL OTHER INVESTMENT RATES REMAIN UNCHANGED.
* Equivalent to bank rate increases.
† Compounded annual rate if interest added to the account yearly or monthly.

Peckham Building Society, Number One, Copple Coppe Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 1AA.

Firms criticized for not revealing debt impact

By Alastair Fairley

COMPANIES raising finance by issuing complex financial instruments are failing to disclose the impact of the securities in their reports to shareholders, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales has said.

In its annual survey of British financial reporting practice, the ICA monitored the annual reports of more than 300 large and medium-sized listed and unlisted companies.

But despite the billions of pounds raised on the securities markets by companies issuing such instruments as deep discounted bonds, convertible preference shares, synthetic convertibles and perpetuals, an alarming lack of disclosure of the impact of the instruments on present and future profits has been found.

Only 4 per cent reported to

shareholders that a complex capital-raising issue had taken place. The report does not reveal how many of these have actually raised finance via complex securities.

But despite the impact many of the instruments can have on companies' future profits, the ICA only found one company in every 100 actually disclosing the impact that paying interest on the security has had, or will have in future years, on its income.

Criticizing the lack of disclosure, Mr David Tongkin, one of the authors, has called for the Accounting Standards Committee to tighten up the regulations.

The report singles out a number of companies which have raised finance by issuing complex securities. Even in the companies where some

evidence of complex securities issues has been found, none of the companies tells its shareholders what the economic impact of the securities is on the company's profits.

Kingfisher, for example, discloses it has nearly £54 million of deep-discounted debt (in the form of zero coupon loan stock) on its books. But details of the final liability to the company of the stock — more than £225 million — are only provided to shareholders by way of a note, with no data on how the final liability has been calculated. In addition, no separate disclosure is made of the effect on the company's income servicing the paper has.

Likewise, Ultramar, which has \$65.1 million and 19,379 million peseta (£109 million) outstanding in low-interest,

foreign currency loans on its books. The company discloses the final liability amounts, but the cost of the long term debt is not disclosed separately.

The report also exposes inconsistent accounting treatments by British & Commonwealth for its redeemable preference shares. Some — more than £149 million worth — are incorporated directly into the balance sheet at its full terminal liability cost. A second issue of shares — nearly 52 million 10p shares in all — is only incorporated into the balance sheet at some £5.2 million, even though the final liability to the company could be as high as £240 million.

Finance Reporting 1989-90, code 3990, £42.50, Chartwell Books, PO Box 620, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 2LX.

Ratners' voucher scheme success

By Gillian Bowditch

H Samuel, the Ratners subsidiary which distributed 102,000 £50 vouchers to customers who spent more than £150 just before Christmas, has had almost 60 per cent of them redeemed since the redemption period began in February.

The vouchers are valid until October, a traditionally quieter period for the jewellery business.

Mr Gerald Ratner, chairman and chief executive, says the discount offered is, in fact, nearer 10 per cent than 33 per cent as the average transaction for which the vouchers qualified was £200. The average purchase with a voucher is £70.

Ratners, whose new finance director, Mr Gary O'Brien, starts today, will announce final results on April 26. Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits for the year of about £108 million, plus property profits of roughly £13 million, against £81 million last time.

Although this year may be tougher than last, sales in Britain are believed to be rising more than 20 per cent. Sales in the US are believed to be flat. In Britain, Ratner is attacking Argos's market share in jewellery and aims to raise its share of the jewellery market to 50 per cent. Some observers believe Argos's share of the jewellery market may have fallen by 1 per cent last year.

Ratner shares have fallen from more than 270p at the end of last year to about 240p, partly as a result of fears that the group would diversify after news leaked that it had been considering a bid for Dixons, the electrical retailer.

Pathé chief sentenced

Naples — Giancarlo Parretti, head of the US Pathé Communications Corporation, has been sentenced to nearly four years in jail, in his absence, for fraudulent bankruptcy, Ansa, the Italian news agency said. Ansa said the charges related to a Naples newspaper chain owned by Parretti which folded in 1981 after two years of operation. He is likely to appeal.

(Reuters)

ECONOMIC VIEW

Bank seeks shiny new measure of money

The Bank of England is going around asking people what money is. The question is not quite as bizarre as it sounds. Every time financial institutions bring out new savings schemes, the boundary between different definitions of money is liable to shift, requiring new thought about what exactly constitutes money.

Since the Budget, the Bank has brought out *Monetary Aggregates in a Changing Environment: A Statistical Discussion Paper*, which proposes changing some definitions of the money supply and reviews alternatives. Given the place of monetary policy in the Government's economic firmament, this is important. Market participants and others are invited to comment by the end of next month.

Some of the Bank's proposals are likely to meet with widespread assent. The introduction of interest-bearing current accounts by the big banks during the past year means that non-interest bearing M1 (NIB-M1) has dwindled in size and significance.

The importance of NIB-M1 was that it helped to separate out money held to spend from money held to save — spending money being the more important item from the point of view of inflationary potential. But people are using these interest-bearing accounts just like other current accounts to finance their daily transactions, so the connection between NIB-M1 and transactions money has all but vanished.

The Bank proposes to cease publishing NIB-M1 as a separate aggregate though it will go on publishing the components.

The Bank also proposes to make some small changes in the definition of M2, which was invented in 1982 in another attempt to find a transactions measure of money. The idea is to align the components of M2 so that they are also included in M4. This will make the data easier to collect. More important, it will turn M2 into a kind of "retail M4" so that the relationship between the two aggregates will be more informative than in the past.

At the far end of the spectrum, the case for continuing to publish M5 now is arguably slight. With the exception of the period between 1978 and 1980 when the "corset" was constraining the growth of bank deposits, expansion in M5 has been almost indistinguishable from that of M4.

Indeed, changes in last year's Budget have encouraged the creation of sub-

stitutes for bank deposits in the void beyond the present monetary Pluto of the system. Perhaps these should also be tracked.

The Bank's solution is to stop publishing M5 as such but to go on producing the building blocks for several broad measures of money so that analysts can construct bespoke measures of money for themselves. The principle of encouraging an intellectual market in monetary aggregates so that we can all play at being the Bank of England seems a good one. We might even achieve a net increase in collective wisdom.

However, one cannot be entirely satisfied with the approach adopted by the Bank's paper. Described as statistical, it examines the borderlines between the aggregates from a statistical point of view. Yet ultimately the choice of aggregates should be based not only on statistical purity and practical convenience but on economic relevance.

This becomes particularly important in the discussion of Divisia indices. A Divisia index is a method of combining several different measures of money weighted according to their "money-ness." The idea is to use the rate of interest paid on monetary instruments as a measure of whether the balances are being held primarily for spending or for saving.

The Bank points to a number of problems with Divisia indices. For instance, a downward sloping yield curve would appear to be giving the wrong signals. The growth in interest-bearing current accounts, which are close substitutes for non-interest bearing accounts, could lead a Divisia measure to under-estimate the growth of transactions money. The Bank concludes that "despite their theoretical interest, there seem to be significant problems with the construction and interpretation of Divisia money indices."

Some of these problems may have technical solutions. But the most important question has not been asked. Can an index of this kind be constructed which is a superior measure of monetary conditions and a good predictor of inflation?

Some, including Peter Spencer of Shearson Lehmann, will claim it can. Others say it cannot. But if it can provide useful information about the economy, then nobody should be put off by statistical messiness. The debate should not stop with the Bank of England's paper.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Tilbury in line for £36m deals

DES JENSON



In the sidings: One of the eight Royal Scotsman carriages being refitted by Tilbury to form a luxury train

TILBURY is set to announce £36 million of new contracts, including a £721,000 deal, won by its specialist shopping division, to fit out eight carriages that will carry passengers on the Royal Scotsman, now a luxury touring train (Matthew Bond writes).

The biggest is a £4.5 million deal won by the process pipe-work division for the Thorp

(thermal oxide reprocessing plant) project at British Nuclear Fuel's Sellafield plant.

Mr Mike Bottier, Tilbury's chairman, is pleased with the company's successes. "These contracts are excellent news — they yet again demonstrate the extensive range of capabilities in Tilbury and its coverage nationwide."

This week Tilbury will be

reporting its full-time profits. Last September Tilbury escaped the clutches of Lilley with the help of a spectacular forecast that it would make not less than £27 million in the year to December, an 84 per cent increase on 1988.

Tilbury would have been obliged to issue a warning if it was going to fail to make that forecast. It has not done so.

Last week there was speculation that Holzmann, the West German company, was to buy the 29.9 per cent stake Lilley was left with after its £137 million bid failed.

Tilbury has a good relationship with Holzmann and would not have been unhappy with it as a large shareholder. But Holzmann and Lilley failed to agree terms.

Texon buy renews old UMG link

By Our City Staff

A link that dates to 1899 has been re-established by UMG, the holding company for British United Shoe Machinery, which was bought out from the US adhesives group, Emhart, two years ago. UMG is paying \$125 million to Black & Decker Corporation for Texon Footwear Materials, a shoe-component manufacturer.

British United Shoe Machinery was the UK arm of the American group, United Shoe Machinery, from the turn of the century until it was acquired by Emhart in 1976. It shares its Leicester site with two of Texon's UK operations, which stayed with Emhart until the company was itself taken over by Black & Decker 18 months ago.

Finance for the acquisition, which will double UMG's sales to £200 million, was arranged by the US bank, Bankers Trust, which also backed its £80 million buyout from Emhart. The purchase will give it plants in the US, Germany, Italy, Taiwan and the UK.

Yeoman likely to sue Warburg

By Jeremy Andrews

CLF Yeoman, the Irish equipment and vehicle lessor, is expected to issue writs today against SG Warburg in connection with the £88 million purchase of Combined Lease Finance, the British car-leasing company, in December 1988.

Four months after the sale, Yeoman announced a £12 million provision against losses in a CLF subsidiary, Technology for Business, and now it will attempt to recover £25 million in damages from SG Warburg, its then adviser.

Warburg, capitalized at £900 million, is more than 10 times the size of CLF Yeoman, which also faces serious problems in its core Irish leasing business.

In January, CLF Yeoman's shares were suspended for a week while it clarified the tax position with the Luxembourg authorities.

As was spelt out in the prospectus for its introduction to the London Stock Exchange, sponsored by SG Warburg, the

"great majority" of Yeoman's big ticket-leasing transactions are covered by Section 84 of the Irish Corporation Tax Act of 1976.

This means that interest is not subject to tax in Ireland and is treated as dividend income in the hands of the lending bank.

Until now, such dividends have also been covered by double taxation treaties and not taxed in the hands of the recipient.

However, the authorities in Luxembourg, one of the main sources of such finance, have been reviewing the matter.

When its shares returned from suspension in January, CLF Yeoman said that the tax treatment which applied to its existing Luxembourg financings would continue until December 1994 and that arrangements had been agreed which meant it would be possible for Yeoman to enter new transactions with its Luxembourg bankers on a cost-efficient basis.

S&P gives societies A1 rating

By Our City Staff

Standard & Poor's, the US credit rating agency, gives Britain's building societies a clean bill of health despite the challenges of deregulation and a stagnant housing market.

The agency gives all seven large societies covered in its survey at least A1 ratings for their short-term debt. The biggest society, the Halifax, is also accorded an AA rating for its long-term borrowings.

An article in S&P's journal, *Creditweek*, *International*, cites several factors for their stability. It points out that loans are secured against high quality assets and that despite increased mortgage arrears the societies are cushioned by past rises in house prices and conservative lending policies.

Closer ties with insurance companies have increased commission income, while computerization has minimized costs.

The societies covered by the survey are Abbey National, Alliance & Leicester, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Halifax, Leeds Permanent, National & Provincial and Woolwich.

European media players tune in to battle for new franchises

Switching on to ITV channels

By Melinda Wittstock

THIRTY European media players have announced their desire to grab a slice of Britain's independent television industry when the franchises come up for renewal in 1993.

Signor Silvio Berlusconi, Europe's second largest media baron, who owns TV stations in Italy, Germany, France, Spain and Yugoslavia, is one. Another is CLT, the Luxembourg-based company which owns Radio Luxembourg, has a stake in RTL-Plus, the satellite TV station, and is considered in the running for the 56.5 per cent stake in Thames Television, which is up for sale.

Other would-be players include Bertelsmann, the German media company; Bonnier, the Scandinavian publishing group, which has said it wants to invest £80 million in British television; Hachette and Havas of France; VNU of Holland; RCS of Italy; and El Pais of Spain.

But any American or Australian media company, whose appetite for British television franchises was what by the

decision, last week, of Thorn EMI and BET to sell their combined stake in Thames, may as well go on a diet.

Although the Independent Broadcasting Authority's position on the proposed disposal is far from certain, the Broadcasting Bill will bar all non-European Community investors from taking stakes in the ITV companies above 4.9 per cent and prevent them from exercising voting rights on more than 1 per cent.

Analysis expects the Bill, which becomes law in July, to allow European investors to take stakes of at least 25 per cent in ITV companies. But some uncertainty remains over whether they will be allowed to bid for a controlling stake.

The IBA will not be drawn on what criteria it will apply to the sale of the Thames stake, saying it will wait for a concrete proposal from BET and Thorn EMI, which in turn say they plan to wait for guidance from the IBA before formal talks with prospective buyers.

"The IBA is very nervous about the whole subject of ownership and takeovers but it doesn't have predetermined views," said Mr Chris Akers, a television

analyst, with Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers. "It's likely they would accept a friendly takeover, even from a EC media company, if they believe it would enhance an ITV company before the franchise round, which begins with applications and bids in March, 1991."

It is thought, however, that the IBA would prefer that the 56.5 per cent is placed with a number of investors so as to avoid a full bid for Thames.

Both Thorn and BET say if they can not get a "sensible price" before the present franchise agreements run out at the end of 1991, they will stick with Thames through the bidding process.

Royal assent of the Broadcasting Bill may provoke a round of takeovers before the franchises are awarded. "Bidders could sit on the fence and wait until they see who's won the franchises, but once those franchises are awarded, the share prices will move up very fast," said Mr Akers.

There may well be a moratorium on takeovers in the year after the results of the franchise auction and their start-date on January 1 1993.

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8. That a proposal for a demerger of
Rolls-Royce Motor Cars be formulated
(Ordinary Resolution)

9. To amend the Articles of Association
(Special Resolution)

10. To authorize the Company to make market
purchases of its own shares
(Special Resolution)

11. To repay and cancel the Preferred 5% Stock.
Preference Stock
(Ordinary Resolution)

12. To request the Board to implement the market
purchases referred to in Resolution 10
(Ordinary Resolution)

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No.	Company	Group	Cap	Div	Yield	P/E
1	Amersham	Chemicals/Phar	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
2	De Morgan	Property	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
3	Yates & Brown	Transport	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
4	Crested	Electronics	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
5	Watts	Property	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
6	Renfrew	Industries I-R	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
7	Meggin	Industries I-R	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
8	Black (A&C)	Newspapers/Pub	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
9	Kelvin	Industries I-R	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
10	Perman	Industries I-R	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
11	Tr Ltd (an)	Building/Roads	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
12	Timland Park	Property	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
13	Bedington	Breweries	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
14	Grayson	Property	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
15	Reynolds	Building/Roads	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
16	McAlpine (A&C)	Building/Roads	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
17	Rutland Group	Drainage/Stores	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
18	Marston Ltd	Building/Roads	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
19	Marston Comm (an)	Newspapers/Pub	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
20	P&E International	Electronics	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
21	B&B Ltd	Property/Phar	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
22	Fitch Levent	Electronics	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
23	Menace	Electronics	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
24	BICK (an)	Electronics	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
25	Lep	Transport	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
26	Macmillan Repro	Electronics	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
27	Loe Ltd	Industries I-R	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
28	Kwik Save	Food	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
29	Rapistan	Property	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
30	Armwoods	Building/Roads	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
31	Weir	Industries S-Z	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
32	Life Sciences	Electronics	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
33	Sterling Ind	Industries S-Z	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
34	Volvo	Electronics	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
35	Timland	Electronics	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
36	Timland A-D	Electronics	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
37	Br Acceptor (an)	Industries I-R	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
38	Transtar P (an)	Industries I-R	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
39	Fisher (A)	Food	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
40	BTP	Chemicals/Phar	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
41	Rockwell	Industries I-R	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
42	Brackwell	Industries A-D	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
43	Yorkshire TV	Leisure	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
44	Unidare	Industries S-Z	100	1.00	1.00	10.0

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Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

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BRITISH FUNDS

Stock	Cap	Div	Yield	P/E
1. British Fund	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
2. British Fund	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
3. British Fund	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
4. British Fund	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
5. British Fund	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
6. British Fund	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
7. British Fund	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
8. British Fund	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
9. British Fund	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
10. British Fund	100	1.00	1.00	10.0

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Stock	Cap	Div	Yield	P/E
1. Short	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
2. Short	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
3. Short	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
4. Short	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
5. Short	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
6. Short	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
7. Short	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
8. Short	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
9. Short	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
10. Short	100	1.00	1.00	10.0

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Stock	Cap	Div	Yield	P/E
1. Five to Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
2. Five to Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
3. Five to Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
4. Five to Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
5. Five to Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
6. Five to Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
7. Five to Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
8. Five to Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
9. Five to Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
10. Five to Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Stock	Cap	Div	Yield	P/E
1. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
2. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
3. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
4. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
5. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
6. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
7. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
8. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
9. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
10. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0

UNDATED

Stock	Cap	Div	Yield	P/E
1. Undated	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
2. Undated	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
3. Undated	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
4. Undated	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
5. Undated	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
6. Undated	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
7. Undated	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
8. Undated	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
9. Undated	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
10. Undated	100	1.00	1.00	10.0

INDEX-LINKED

Stock	Cap	Div	Yield	P/E
1. Index-Linked	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
2. Index-Linked	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
3. Index-Linked	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
4. Index-Linked	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
5. Index-Linked	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
6. Index-Linked	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
7. Index-Linked	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
8. Index-Linked	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
9. Index-Linked	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
10. Index-Linked	100	1.00	1.00	10.0

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Stock	Cap	Div	Yield	P/E
1. Banks	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
2. Banks	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
3. Banks	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
4. Banks	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
5. Banks	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
6. Banks	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
7. Banks	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
8. Banks	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
9. Banks	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
10. Banks	100	1.00	1.00	10.0

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Stock	Cap	Div	Yield	P/E
1. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
2. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
3. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
4. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
5. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
6. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
7. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
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4. Banks	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
5. Banks	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
6. Banks	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
7. Banks	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
8. Banks	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Stock	Cap	Div	Yield	P/E
1. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
2. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
3. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
4. Over Fifteen	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
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9. Index-Linked	100	1.00	1.00	10.0
10. Index-Linked	100	1.00	1.00	10.0

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Concentration	Per cent	Cost per lb.	Div Yld
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ADVENTURE
PURSUITS

FOCUS

Out to enjoy the new age of action

Health, fitness
and excitement
are very much
on today's agenda

A spirit of adventure is in tune with the optimistic mood of the new decade. While televised spectator sports will continue to attract millions, in the next few years increasing numbers of otherwise ordinary people will put themselves centre-stage in pursuit of sport, health, fitness — and excitement.

Adventure is now a saleable product as people realize there is more to life than reading about it. The range of adventure pursuits is growing each year and old sports are getting a new twist.

Ballooning, gliding, hang-gliding, microlight-flying, parachuting, parascending, white-water rafting, wet-biking, jet skiing, hovering, power-boating, wind-surfing, rock-climbing, mountaineering, bobbing, cave-diving, pot-holing, skiing, walking and orienteering have all grown out of relative obscurity.

The taste for adventure can be satisfied on one of the increasing number of activity holidays. These offer adults and children a wide range of opportunities — from abseiling to water skiing — to get to grips with something new.

Adventure activities are also available at one of Britain's many theme parks, such as Thorpe Park and Alton Towers.

While the pursuit of excitement is the reason most people take up an adventure activity, the real gain is often the sport's contribution to mental and physical well-being. This makes the almost inevitable muscular pain, sprains, strains and bruises worthwhile.

The quality of life is enhanced by regular exercise. Unfortunately, many forms of exercise can be boring. But if an adventure pursuit is made an integral part of a personal fitness programme, the pursuit of health and happiness is easier to sustain and more enjoyable.



Team spirit: tracking down opponents, dressed in battle fatigues and armed with paint guns, is one way companies have found to encourage teamwork.



Blow up your boss

Zapping the boss with a paint gun is a large part of the appeal of adventure games, according to Nick Squire, who runs the Campaign company's eight-acre woodland "battleground" with its M*A*S*H*-style camp, at Effingham, Surrey.

The basic game, which lasts half an hour, pits two teams against each other in a marked-out area of woodland. Each team has a base camp with a flag and the objective is to capture the opposing team's flag and return to base. The game has firm rules enforced by marshals.

To help achieve their objective, participants are armed with paint-marking CO2 pistols with a range of up to 30yds. When players are hit by the paint, they are out of the game.

Mr Squire says: "There will be different strategies and ideas from each team. One team might attack from one

How sport helps
companies work
off aggression

side while the other tries sneaking around the back. We run the games as corporate entertainment or as a sport or fun-day.

"Companies use our facilities to entertain their clients, as an incentive for staff or purely as a day out for their employees.

"Adventure games offer a bit of healthy competition between company departments or branches or between the company and its clients. It is a harmless bit of stress relief and a chance to work together as a team. Winning or losing is not really important.

"Some companies have the idea that it is good for lower management staff to be able to shoot the boss. It is good for

everyone to be in the thick of it together.

"We get a lot of computer businesses worried that there is not enough teamwork in the firm."

He denies that the games have much to do with the sort of activities to be found in army selection procedures.

"It is much more light-hearted," he says. "It is played as a laugh and not taken all that seriously. One should not have any great ideas about it. Some people think you can use it as leadership training.

"I think it could be, but we do not run it like that."

Campaign's clients range from the local supermarket to city firms. Charges range from £20 to £50 a day for each person and the company claims that about 75 per cent of participants return for more.

"The average age range is 20-35, but we are not a yuppie sport," Mr Squire says.

Firms such as Business Pursuits, which organizes promotional, incentive and entertainment events for the corporate market, find that adventure is good business.

Sam Gill, managing director of Business Pursuits, says: "We help to generate sales and improve client relationships for our corporate clients. We also organize events for staff to reward performance. It is an incentive if they know about it in advance and it is a reward if they do not.

"We also do staff entertainment days when we just take everyone for a good day out. This is important in generating staff loyalty because the cost of recruiting replacement staff in the South-East is high."

What the firm provides depends on what the client is trying to do. The fundamental idea is to create "a good day out" which leaves the participants with a good opinion of whoever is paying the bill.

Mr Gill likes to have a full briefing about the people the client is bringing along. "It's like when I used to work in advertising, briefing the creative team about designing an advertisement," he says. "They want to know as much as they can about the people the advertisement is trying to reach. I go through the same process. The better the briefing, the more appropriate the event and the more it is enjoyed."

"It is an image thing that runs throughout all the events we put on. We are supporting the client's image," Business Pursuits does that by providing such activities as clay

A surprise twist
to staff days out

pigeon shoots, rally driving, adventure games and skiing.

"Our most popular event is a 'country pursuits' and off-road driving day. Such a day would involve rotating small groups around five different activities in the course of a day: clay pigeon shooting, archery, driving a four-wheel-drive vehicle blindfold, quad-bikes (four-wheeled motorcycles) and off-road buggy racing."

"Everything is carefully planned. Our reputation depends on safety."

"It's a misconception that only 22-year-old male hot-heads from computer companies enjoy these things."

Business Pursuits' costs can work out at about £150 a head

for "a nice day out once a year at a country house where people can try lots of different exciting things". He argues that from a business point of view, the money is well-spent.

"With staff days," he adds, "we always ensure the day is not biased towards what senior management likes to do."

The "war game" activity of playing at soldiers and shooting the "enemy" with bursting paint balls is a popular in-house staff event.

"It is the same with our treasure hunts. You have people in teams — the managing director, the secretary, the marketing manager and the telephonist all in the same car with the most junior member the captain."

On course: off-road driving is a popular pursuit.

"In terms of generating loyalty and warmth within a company structure, adventure activities are a good way of bonding people."

Adventure, excitement and thrills figure high in the list of demands from clients and their guests.

"A lot of things are happening in the corporate hospitality market, which are moving it from spectator-based packages such as Royal Ascot and Wimbledon to more participatory events," Mr Gill says.

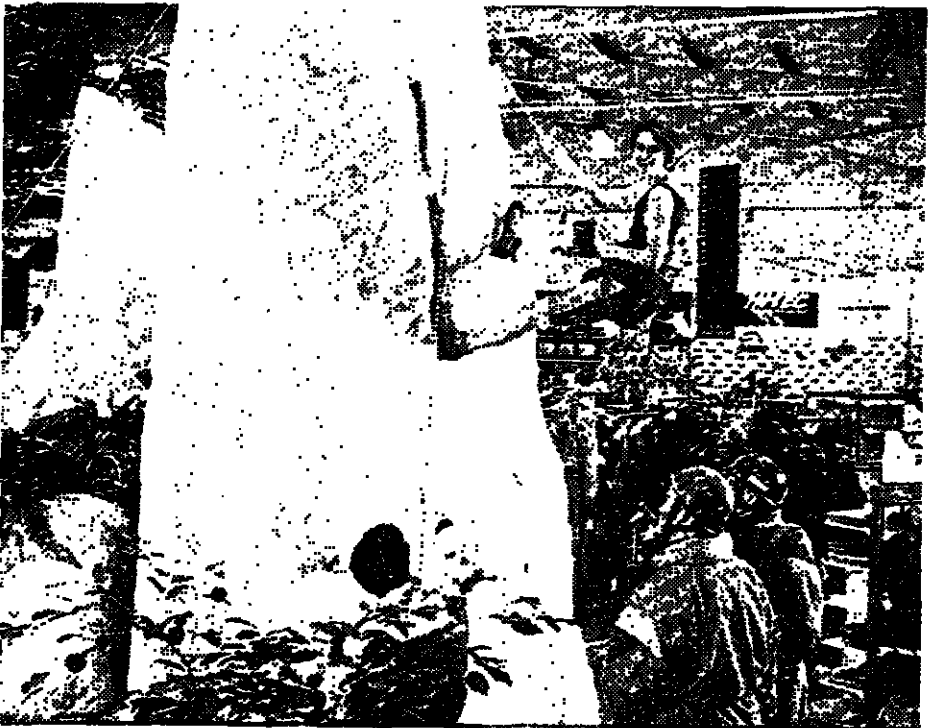
"The reason a lot of people went to these events was that they were exclusive. However, at some events today, hospitality 'villages' are becoming more like hospitality towns, and the more factory-farmed corporate hospitality becomes, the less exclusive it is."

"The demand for corporate hospitality has increased to a dramatic extent — but the number of events has not. There really is a limit to the number and the capacity of spectator days. That is why the villages have grown."

But the main factor has been what Mr Gill identifies as "a move in business generally in recent years towards a healthier approach to life". He explains: "The volume of drinking at business lunches has fallen. The new breed of executive is younger and more athletic. The requirement in terms of what will entertain someone has changed."

Participation is more appropriate for these people, Mr Gill says, and over the past 10 years an increasing proportion of expenditure on corporate hospitality has been on participatory events.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



The six metre indoor climbing wall at Olympus Outdoor World, West Thurrock.

The greatest
choice for the
great outdoorsFrom Olympus
Outdoor World

Olympus Outdoor World, Britain's largest sports and outdoor leisure superstore, are making a major impact on the specialised field of activity sports retailing.

Olympus Outdoor World is the only sports and leisure store of its kind. It has the greatest choice of product lines and ranges for all outdoor pursuits.

Part of the giant Sears Sport and Leisure Group, Olympus Outdoor World opened its first superstore at West Thurrock just six months ago, whilst the second is due to open on May 26th at Merryhill, Dudley. More stores are planned in other parts of the country.

Olympus Outdoor World has over 20,000 different product choices in clothing, footwear and equipment all under one enormous roof,

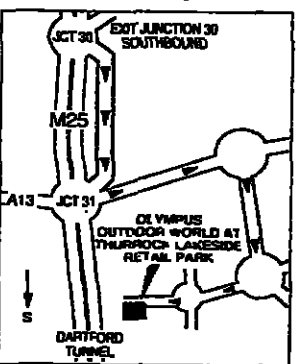
covering 35,000sq. ft. Here are just some of the activities and big names that are to be found at Olympus Outdoor World:

Windsurfing: Tiba, F2 & Neil Pryde; Fishing: Shimano, Shakespeare & Daiwa; Climbing: Asolo, Pod & Wild Country; Walking: Koflach, Timberland & Zamberlan; Outdoor Clothing: Barbour, Patagonia & Berghaus; Skiing: Rossignol, K2 & Look; Camping: Vaude, Karimor & Jack Wolfskin; Canoeing: Pyranha, New Wave & Wild Water; Cycling: Cannondale, Fisher & Muddy Fox; Fitness: Ketter, Tunturi & York; Golf: Wilson, Mizuno & Titleist; Racket Sports: Prince, Head & Slazenger; Footwear: Reebok, Nike & Adidas; Riding: Christy, Harry Hall & Shires.

It is even possible to try out many of the products within the environment of

the superstore, which has its own six metre indoor climbing wall and golf driving net.

This is how to get to Britain's largest sports and outdoor leisure superstore.



Monday - Wednesday 10.00am - 6.00pm
Thursday and Friday 10.00am - 8.00pm
Saturday 9.00am - 6.00pm
Sunday 12 noon - 6.00pm

Outdoor
leisure
superstore

Adventurers have been attracted from as far afield as Worcester and Dover since Olympus Outdoor World opened its doors last year.

Staff, who have been carefully selected for their genuine love of outdoor pursuits and sport, are working in an environment that reflects the outdoor nature of the retail items available; with running water, rocks, natural foliage and wooden walkways enhancing the huge variety of product displays.

Chris Bonington, the world famous mountaineer, has lectured at the store and the exciting "Taming of the Lion" canoeing expedition, to the as yet unconquered River Indus in Pakistan, kitted themselves out at Olympus Outdoor World.

With over £1,000,000 of stock on show from multi-gyms to windsurfers, saddles to skis, canoes to climbing ropes, and mountain bikes to wax jackets, Olympus Outdoor World can cater for the needs of every outdoor enthusiast.

As part of the store's fair trading policy, if a customer purchases any product and subsequently finds within 14 days the same item on offer at a lower price, Olympus Outdoor World will willingly refund the price difference.

(This does not apply to sale periods or discounted prices).

Key to finding the beaten track

THE pursuit of adventure often starts with a shopping trip. Specialist stores abound to meet the needs of enthusiasts as varied as camping and skiing, mountain-biking and watersports, mountaineering and horse-riding.

Although a general sports store will probably be able to meet your needs at a lower price than those charged by the small specialist shops, if you want expert service, think small.

Acknowledging the competition from the specialist retailer, the UK's largest sports "superstore" — the 35,000 sq ft Olympus Outdoor World, near the Essex end of the Dartford Tunnel — claims to hold 15 specialist shops under one roof and makes recruitment of informed staff a top priority.

One specialist shop which serves the adventure market is Stanford, in Long Acre, Covent Garden. It is not small, claiming to be the world's largest map and travel

book shop, offering more than 100,000 different maps, charts and travel guides.

"The important thing about maps is to choose the right one for your purpose," says Peter Ashworth, of Stanford, who is happy to guide customers through the Stanford emporium of national and international maps and guide books for almost every leisure, business, educational or professional need.

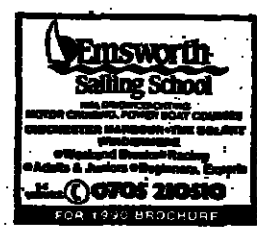
Mr Ashworth praises the maps of the Ordnance Survey, Britain's official map-maker for almost 200 years. "Its products are among the finest examples of mapping you will find. The OS Routemaster is

excellent for the motorist, but there is not really a scale which caters for cyclists — they tend to cycle off the edge of the map too quickly."

Mr Ashworth is a member of Stanford's information service team, which offers free and impartial advice about maps and travel guides to personal or telephone callers (01-836 1321). An alternative to buying maps is to join the Ramblers Association, the organization for walkers and those interested in maintaining free access to Britain's countryside. The association

(1 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2XX; telephone 01-582 6878) operates a members-only OS map hire service.

The experts agree that all map purchases should be based on the same principles: the scale should be appropriate to the speed of movement — the more slowly one goes, the more detail is required — and the format of the map should meet the user's convenience. Walkers generally will not wish to carry a book around, while motorists do not like using tablecloth-sized maps.



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FOCUS

ADVENTURE
PURSUITS

Current affairs

No pollution, no noise, just the pleasures of pure flight

Unlike many sports, gliding is as good as it looks. Natural forces keep the glider moving in a world where the only noise is that of the breeze. It is a pollution-free pursuit — highly visible, but totally silent. Nothing could be "greener".

At 3,500 ft, you are monarch of all you survey, but there is no time to sit and stare. "Reading" the wind, you exploit every opportunity afforded by nature to go upwards and onwards.

According to the British Gliding Association, the principles of gliding are very simple. "A glider is nothing more or less than a refined paper dart," an official says.

Fortunately, however, the pilot remains in control and the aircraft can be turned and height gained, provided the pilot finds some air rising faster than the glider is going down. In absolutely still air, of course, the glide path would remain downwards. The skill of the pilot lies in finding the up-currents that will allow him to prolong his flight.

At the Lasham gliding centre, near Alton, in Hampshire, there is a logbook full of lengthy cross-country flights. Mike Carr, one of Lasham's senior pilots, recalls a colleague who set off one morning and flew to Durham Cathedral and back in a day. Mr Carr, who started gliding



We'll have lift-off: trainer Nigel Pringle (rear) calms beginner Julian Richardson

in 1954, full of childhood memories of wartime aerial combat over Southampton, says that he does it for "the sheer adventure — every flight is an adventure."

"It is an expensive sport in terms of time, but so flexible that you can make of it whatever you want to. Some people will glide locally, never going out of reach of Lasham; others will want to do cross-country flying."

"You get a terrific sense of achievement. Whatever pressure you have in your work or your domestic situation goes out of the window as you

concentrate on flying that aircraft. You have to be constantly on the alert; you cannot just switch off."

Phil Phillips, the general manager of the Lasham centre, from where about 10 per cent of all the gliding activity in the country begins, says: "When a person is booked on gliding he or she never, ever gives it up. The training period can be difficult, but after that there are only two things that make someone give up gliding: dying or becoming incapacitated."

Gliding is not a cheap

hobby, yet it attracts followers from all social and economic classes. A glider costs about £8,000, although at Lasham some models cost more than £40,000.

Fortunately, gliding is easy to sample. Most gliding clubs will arrange a no-obligation trial flight. Details of local clubs can be obtained from the British Gliding Association (0533 531051). At Lasham (025683 270/322) such an experience can be had for less than £25. Mr Phillips recommends taking a trial flight mid-week, otherwise it means a long wait.

Ready to ride the wild waves

THE adventure begins when it is "blowing a howler". That is a high wind to those uninitiated in the ways of the fast-growing watersport of windsurfing. Skill and a good wind took Mark Tuckwood, of Whitestable, Kent, from a standing start up to 30mph — and the title of joint holder of the UK speed record — on a two-man board.

Windsurfing — also known as boardsailing and sailboarding — is said to have 250,000 participants throughout Britain, many of them

finding the cost of their sport as appealing as its thrills.

Windsurfing is probably the cheapest way of getting aloft under sail, either inland or offshore. The initial outlay is modest and one's learning curve can rise rapidly during an introductory six-hour course, although learning how to harness and control the wind skillfully takes time. A humiliation many novices suffer is to get lost in the sheer delight of effortlessly sailing away from the shore, only to find they cannot get back.

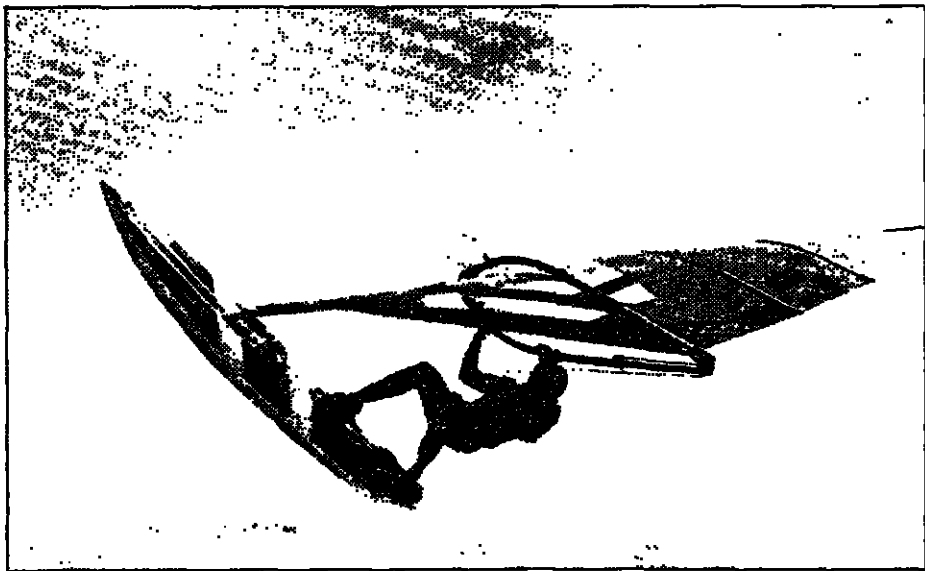
A beginner's budget could start at £200 and run up to £1,750. The biggest expense will be the board, which, fully rigged, can cost from £100 secondhand to £1,300 for the newest model. Lessons, wet-suit, boots or beach shoes, buoyancy aid or harness and a car roof rack can be found, new or secondhand, for between £100 and £450.

Once kitted out, the would-be sailboarder can work through getting "munched" — falling off and being smothered by a breaking wave — to

the skill and thrill of "wave jumping", where the rider becomes airborne.

Mr Tuckwood says: "Windsurfing is not easy. 'I would not recommend it to non-swimmers, but it is enough to be able-bodied.'"

Windsurfers' stomachs, arms, legs, thighs and buttocks will all benefit from the regular exercise.



Wave jumping: the windsurfer becomes airborne in search of more and more thrills



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Walking and rambling should be a pleasure so why risk serious discomfort with an inferior pair of socks? Cold, uncomfortable feet can make any outdoor activity a real mess. But not anymore if you wear a pair of Bridgedale Cushion Loop Socks. Designed and made by experts, field tested by professionals and available in a wide range of styles and colours, they are guaranteed to give you day-long comfort. Treat yourself to a pair of stylish, comfortable and durable Bridgedale socks and put real pleasure back into your walking. The full range of the famous Bridgedale Wool and Cotton Socks and Cushion Loop Socks is available at leading Stockists. Pure Style. Pure Comfort. Pure Bridgedale.

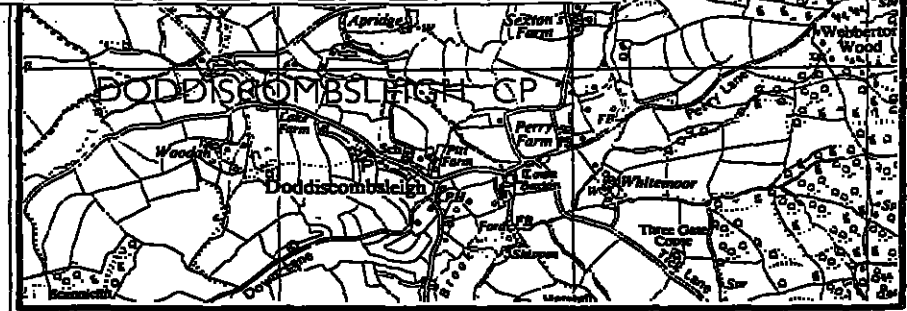


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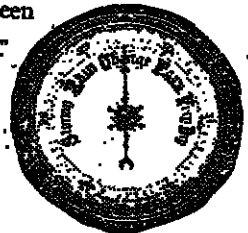
'Adventure waiting to be unfolded'

Available from bookshops and stationers throughout Great Britain

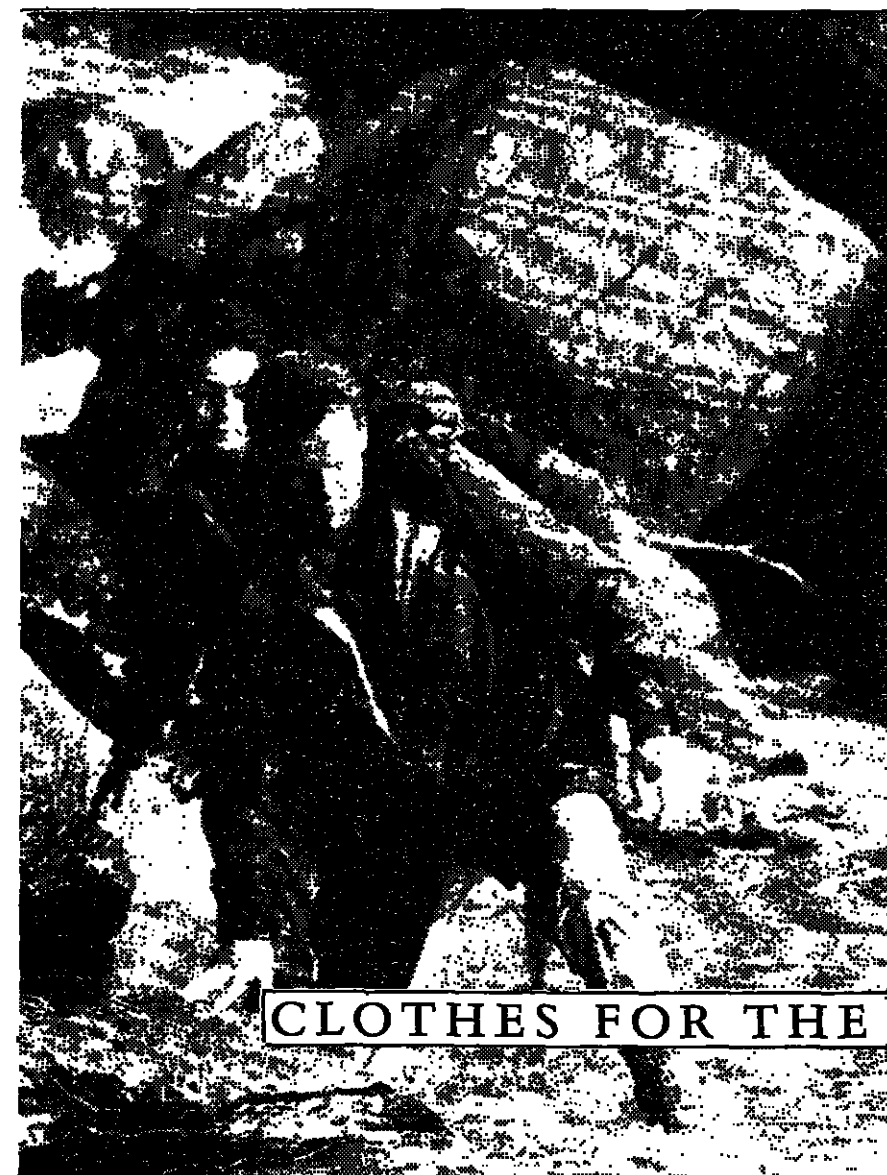
Rohan

Rohan was conceived fourteen years ago as the first real alternative to conventional outdoor wear. Since then it has grown to become the definitive (and most respected) clothing system available.

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First-division back at L

Rugby Union's Courage Clubs Championship develops into a three-way fight as the titleholders are beaten

Stifled Gloucester breathe again

By Peter Hills

Gloucester 16
Orrell 10

GLoucester discovered on Saturday just what sort of pressure Bath have been meeting and mastering for the greater part of the last decade. The experience was so shattering to the men of Kingsholm it was nearly enough to lose them their chance of winning the Courage Clubs title.

Gloucester, men of all hues and designs, were blowing their cheeks with some gusto afterwards. Unseasonably warm as the afternoon had been, with a sun-drenched Kingsholm more reminiscent of Toulouse or Bezier in April, it was not entirely due to the heat.

Gloucester will now win the title if they beat Nottingham at Beeston in their final League match on April 28. Wags, who entertain Saracens on the same day, are one point behind Gloucester and the only team realistically capable of denying them the championship.

The high expectancy of taking the title was what stifled Gloucester. That, plus the presence of Fred Howard, whose reputation precedes him nowadays. Only once, when Gloucester were scoring their thrilling second-half try, did anyone feel inclined to risk Mr Howard's disciplinary wrath. Hynes and Preedy lay on the ground clutching each other with arms swinging like falling lovers, a more malicious intent in their minds.

That brought a warning to both captains which left Gloucester too imprisoned in a cell of their own nerves to strike out, literally or otherwise, for a convincing victory in a match which developed into a gripping encounter.

Manfully, Orrell could have won. But their failure to take scoring chances and convert pressure into points provided the Kingsholm troupe with an escape route.

Not even the apparent security of a 9-0 lead after 35 minutes, courtesy of the city's Smiths, could calm Gloucester.



At full stretch: Mike Teague, the Gloucester No. 8, tries to get a grip on Manley, the charging Orrell flanker, during the tussle at Kingsholm

Hitchens' try, following Heskop's determined pursuit of a kick through and the intuitive positioning of the supporting Ainsworth and Kimmins, was converted to make it 9-6 at the interval.

Strett scored from Ainsworth's up and under, which hung like a sword above Gloucester heads, to give

defence, their momentum stirred by a hitherto largely untroubled Kingsholm roar, for Price to dash into the left corner.

Strett, however, missed the conversion, a dropped goal and two penalties. Such profligacy mortified an Orrell pack which heaved Gloucester back in the scrummages and

dominated the lineouts, with Kimmins outstanding. Had Orrell's finishing matched their approach work, Gloucester would have paid a high price.

Keith Richardson, the Gloucester coach, admitted: "It all meant too much. But we are lucky because we got away with it today."

Robinson was asked to convert the back of a five-point try scored by his stand-off, Lee, near the corner flag.

To add to his worries Robinson could see his younger brother, Andy, standing behind the post, willing him to miss.

The younger Robinson, a British Lion and deposed England flanker, was captaining a depleted Bath for the day, and he knew a successful conversion would put his team out of the title race.

The full back succeeded on a miserable day for goal kickers and Saracens's glory was complete, with Steadman, their captain, being carried shoulder high from the pitch. He returns in a few weeks after leading the club to a remarkable triumph following their promotion from the second division last year.

He must have been worried as Bath took the lead in the 27th

minute when Egerton broke through the back of a five-point try scored by his stand-off, Lee, near the corner flag.

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He must have been worried as Bath took the lead in the 27th

First-division fare back at Liverpool

By Barry Trowbridge

Rugby 16
Liverpool St Helens 11

LIVERPOOL St Helens travelled to Webb Ellis Road on Saturday knowing that their defeat of Rugby, coupled with a Richmond victory at London Irish, would guarantee them a return to the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship.

They achieved their half of the target with little difficulty, territorially dominating for much of the game and edging home by two tries and a penalty goal to a dropped goal and a penalty goal in a match littered with errors, yet played in remarkably good temper, considering what was at stake.

With Northampton, the leaders of the second division by a point at the start of the day, winning at Gosforth to secure their promotion place and Richmond coming good at Sumbury, the championship itself is still undecided, but with Rugby as their guests in the penultimate match of the Pilkington Cup semi-finals should provide their supporters with a title to round off a memorable season at Franklin's Gardens on April 28.

Rugby showed little on Saturday to suggest otherwise although, with Liverpool rallying, as they do, on a tight game and the understanding between Morris, their scrum half, and the back row, it was never likely to be an exciting afternoon. Liverpool spent most of the first half deep in Rugby territory, yet found themselves 6-4 down at the interval.

A dropped goal by Vandy, after a chip into space by Urwin

that caused the Liverpool defence more problems than perhaps necessary (it was not a day to let the ball bounce), gave Rugby a 3-0 lead after five minutes, and when their visitors collapsed a scrum on their own half, Howard kicked a splendid goal to make it 6-0.

From a five-minute scrum on the half-hour, Morris was fed by McGarrick, his No. 8, and opened Liverpool's account with a try on the narrow side, and it was no more than they deserved when Asker kicked them into the lead with a penalty goal 13 minutes into the second half.

As the half ground took its toll the referee played 11 min 12sec for stoppages in the second half alone - the game lost what little flow it had thereafter, Septon providing the only further score, in the left-hand corner, from a lightning feed by Morris after 73 minutes.

Five minutes into time added on, it looked as though Saunders, the Rugby right wing, would add to his enviable record of 97 tries in 95 games for the club, and maybe deprive Liverpool of victory. But the defence held firm and first-division rugby union was back on Merseyside.

SCORERS: Rugby: Penalty goal: Howard, dropped goal: Vandy, Liverpool: Try: Asker, drop: Morris, Septon, Pen: Asker.

RUGBY: A Gilbey, E Saunders, G Parris, P Heskop, C Howard, S Vandy, P Morris, J Hynes, J Preedy, J Smith, J Jones, J Jenkins, C Gidkins (P. Flynn).

LIVERPOOL: St Helens: A Asker, P McLaughlin, B Wainman, M Davies, M Jones, J Gidkins, M Parris, C Cooper, P Buxton (P. N. Smith), A McGarrick, Referee: A. Mico (Cardiff).

Two new caps in strong Ulster line-up

By George Ace

ULSTER, denied the services of at least 10 regulars over the past few seasons, including David Irwin and Willie Anderson, the province's two captains, have still stitched together a more than useful looking team to face Cleeve at Mount-Denis on Saturday, April 14.

The team includes five internationals and only two new caps, in Michael Daly, a centre, and Davy Smyth, the free-kicking left wing of Ballymena. Jimmy McCoy, the international tight-head prop, will captain the team.

ULSTER: C. Wainman (Mount-Denis), K. Hynes (Cleeve), W. Anderson (Cleeve), D. Irwin (Cleeve), P. Hynes (Cleeve), J. Gidkins (Cleeve), M. Parris (Cleeve), C. Cooper (Cleeve), P. Buxton (Cleeve), A. McGarrick (Cleeve), Referee: A. Mico (Cardiff).

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Northern Hal set to fulfil early promise

By Mandarin

NORTHERN Hal, a promising three-year-old, can record his first victory in the Ship Anchor Stakes at Nottingham this afternoon.

Peter Walwyn's charge, who cost £140,000 as a yearling, showed up well for four of the six furlongs in the Ascot race, won by Tidemore last September. As he is by the middle-distance performer Sadler's Wells, it is reasonable to assume that Northern Hal will improve over this extended mile.

His main rival looks to be Lord Of Tismore, who quickened well to beat Smokey Native by a length at Doncaster nine days ago. Lord Of Tismore is likely to have benefited from his race, but he must concede 8lb to Northern Hal.

Whatever the fate of Lord Of Tismore, trainer Barry Hills should be on the mark with Idle Chat in the Oh So Sharp Stakes. She began her career with a clear-cut win over an extended mile here last September, making all and quickening in the closing stages to beat Liffey Lass by

two lengths. The ground that day was firm, so her ability to handle fast going is proven.

I like the look of Melbury in the Folestead Claiming Stakes. She won a Haydock maiden by six lengths first time out last term, but also ran respectably in much better class, including when about five lengths sixth to Haunting Beauty in the group three Molecomb Stakes at Goodwood. She made an encouraging reappearance when sixth to Eager Deeva in a handicap at Doncaster and this represents a drop in class.

However, for the map I turn to Colonna in the Call Boy Handicap. He was claimed out of Henry Cecil's stable after finishing second in a Newcastle seller last October, and while, on paper, this may look a sufferer task the opposition is little better than plating class.

Mighty Glow has his share of weight for a horse who has won only once (an amateur riders' handicap), while Take Issue, though a fair hurdler, has been less effective on the level.

Colonna has clearly not

been the easiest horse to train with only three starts in two seasons, but he is likely to have some scope for improvement. He had an unimpressive time over hurdles during the winter but the return to the flat should be more to his liking. Also, Richard Beever's booking of Walter Swinburn is interesting.

At Folkestone, Duck And Dive should be the answer to the Privy Councillor Stakes. Last season, he beat Something Different, who went on to win good races in Germany and at length at Newmarket, and also finished an excellent length second to Pharoah's Delight in a group one race at Phoenix Park. On that form he is much favoured by the race conditions.

Finsen can complete a long-range double for Walwyn in the Dartford Maiden Fillies Stakes, while Exhilarate, who relishes fast ground, is set to take the Gravesend Handicap.

Blistered first time
FOLKESTONE 2.15. Known 4.45. Liffey Lass, 14-1. Northern Hal, 14-1. Northern Hal, 14-1. Northern Hal, 14-1.



The Charlie Brooks-trained Battalio, ridden by Ben de Haan, draws clear over the last on his way to a convincing six-length victory in the Keith Prowse Long Distance Handicap at Ascot on Saturday

Firm ground threatens Call Collect's chance

By Christopher Goulding

CALL Collect, 8-1 joint-favourite for Saturday's Grand National at Fairyhouse on Easter Monday, will be pulled out of the race if the ground continues to dry up. The going at the moment is good to firm.

John Parkes, who trains the nine-year-old, said yesterday: "If the going is firm I won't run him. It's as simple as that."

Call Collect, the winner of last month's Christmas Foxhunter Chase, is also entered for the Scottish National and the Whitbread Gold Cup.

"Next year I'm sending him for the Cheltenham Gold Cup," continued Parkes. "So I could not risk damaging him and I won't. I'll make a final decision as late as Saturday morning if possible."

No problems surround Brown Windsor, the other joint-favourite. "I intend to have a dozen runners at the meeting and they all like fast ground, including Brown Windsor," said Nicky Henderson. "He's in great form and so is See You Then, who lines up for the Sandeman Hurdle."

David Elsworth fields a powerful team for the three-day fixture, but would appreciate some rain. "If we get some rain, we'll be in a better position to make the Martell Cup," he said. Jenny Pitman also has this contest in mind for Toby Tobias, runner-up to Norton's Coin in the Gold Cup.

Desert Orchid, who fell in the Martell last season, is reported to be in good order. The weather

will also determine whether the grey goes for the Irish National at Fairyhouse on Easter Monday.

"If the underfoot conditions and the horse are right, we will run in the Irish National," continued Elsworth. "If not, we will wait for the Whitbread Gold Cup, 12 days later."

Ghoor, who will be attempting to give Elsworth and Brendan Powell a second success in the National, has been pleasing his trainer on the Whitbread gallops.

Richard Dunwoody has chosen to ride Bigsun in preference to Against The Grain for his retained stable of David Nicholson.

"He jumps well, stays and has won over four miles," reasoned Dunwoody. "I'm not too worried about his weight of 10 stone, although I expect I will have to put up a couple of pounds overweight."

Bigsun, a 12-1 chance for Aintree, recently confirmed his well-being on fast ground at the Cheltenham festival when winning the Ritz Club Chase by a head from Seagram. However, in the event of a considerable change from the expected fast ground, Dunwoody would switch to Against The Grain.

Mark Dwyer will now take the ride on Against The Grain, a 20-1 chance with Ladbrokes. Durham Edition was the subject of weekend support and is down to 14-1 (from 16-1) with Ladbrokes.

Chris Grant, who rode Durham Edition to finish fifth behind Little Polver in last season's spectacular, has yet to commit himself regarding The Thinker and Durham Edition.

"I got caught out by the weather last year," explained Grant. "The ground went against my horse when I should have ridden The Thinker to finish third. The boss (Arthur Stephenson) has put me under any pressure as to what I ride and when I have to make up my mind."

Gordon Richards, the trainer of two National winners, worked his three runners, Ritus, Conclusive and The Langholm Dyer, yesterday. "We are very pleased with them," said Joan Richards, the trainer's wife. "They went to a different bit of moorland for their last piece of serious work, and all three went extremely well."

Brian Storey, who came out the victor of the exciting Peregrine Handicap Chase at Ascot on Saturday with Ida's Delight, confirmed he will be riding Nautical Joke for Arthur Stephenson in the big chase.

Jenny Pitman was happy enough with Gainsay's first run of the season in the Keith Prowse Hurdle where he finished sixth to Battalio. "My son, Mark, will have to ride Liverpool," said the Lambourn trainer. "Ben de Haan will ride my other runner, Team Challenge."

Cielamour heads Bolger's one-two

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

CIELAMOUR, a 16-1 chance, and the 4-1 favourite Father Phil provided Jim Bolger with a remarkable one-two in the Irish Lincolshire Handicap at the Curragh on Saturday.

Indeed, it was only by half a length that Father Phil failed to live up to his trainer's pre-race prediction that the two horses might run a dead-heat.

Cielamour, ridden by apprentice Willie Supple, took the lead near the rails more than two furlongs out, but had to be driven right out as Father Phil, who had been drawn wide and obliged to come round twice to make his challenge, finished very strongly to take second place. Another half-length away was Montefiore.

The winner is believed to be in foal to Nordico but, before she finally returns from racing,

Bolger hopes that she will win a listed race. She is owned by her American breeder, Henry De Kwiattowski, and is a daughter of his 1982 American Horse of the Year, Conquistador Cielo.

Bolger's horses are in splendid form just now and Cielamour's triumph was the centrepiece of a treble for the Co Carlow trainer.

His two-year-old Bufalino was always in command in the Curragh Beag Maiden and Strange Lady also justified his favouritism on her Irish debut in the Blackball qualified riders race.

She was considered to be something of a certainty on her French form as she had been favourite of Father Phil in the Lincolshire weights. However, she found the two miles stretching her limit and, stopping fast, won by only a short head from Isthatat.

Britain's hope third

MOUNTAIN Kingdom, backed from 25-1 to 10-1, fared best of the three British runners at Rosellish, Sydney, on Saturday, finishing a short neck and a neck third to Galligaskine in the Hoyts Sky High Handicap over 9½ furlongs.

Larry Olsen, who will again ride him in the group one 1½-mile BMW International at Rosellish on Saturday, was not hard on Mountain Kingdom in the betting, which was locally-run. Clive Britton arrives on

Wednesday to supervise the completion of Mountain Kingdom's preparation, and that of Dawn Success, sixth to Straussbrook in the group one George Ryder Stakes (7½), Alquoz, trained by John Dunlop, was also ahead in fifth. Both Dawn Success and Alquoz will run in the Doncaster Handicap on Saturday week.

Highland Chieftain, who will represent Dunlop in the BMW, worked with local trainers. Clive Britton arrives on

Curley gets £1,000 fine for protest

BARNEY Curley, the flamboyant Newmarket trainer and professional gambler, made a protest against the betting industry at Ascot on Saturday, which resulted in a £1,000 fine.

In the final contest, the Kestrel Hurdle, Curley was represented by Ardbrin, the mount of his stable jockey Declan Murphy, who was withdrawn after going to post.

"I had no intention of running him," explained Curley. "I have taken this action to highlight how the punters in betting shops up and down the country are being robbed."

Curley is calling for a Government inquiry into the betting industry. He is incensed with betting shops sent from the racetrack to betting shops prior to races.

"When Ardbrin won at Taunton last Thursday, 5-2 was freely available on the course, but the longest price returned by SIS (Satellite Information Services) into the betting shops was 10-1," he said. "No one appears to be in charge of betting in this country."

"Bookmakers appear to be able to do whatever they like," Curley continued. "The punters are keeping the industry on the road and they are getting a pathetic deal."

The stewards reported that Curley had informed them of his intention to take action prior to the declaration of Ardbrin on Friday. Curley intended to appeal against his £1,000 fine.

Selections	
By Mandarin	By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.00 Domino Trick.	2.00 Katie Valentine.
2.30 Up-A-Point.	2.30 Petite Mou.
3.00 Idle Chat.	3.30 Noble Fellow.
3.30 Northern Hal.	4.00 Lucky Frosty.
4.00 Melbury.	
4.30 COLONNA (nap).	

Michael Seely's selection: 2.30 Verbarium.

Going: firm	
2.00 BOYER SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,488: 5f) (10 runners)	
1 (1) GREEN BUCK (R Martin) B 8-11	W Ryan
2 (10) LITTLE PLASHER 3 (J P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Dwyer
3 (1) SAMPSON EXPRESS (R Martin) B 8-11	K Dwyer
4 (1) SATANIC PRINCE (R Martin) C 8-11	P Burke
5 (7) WILD CONSCIENCE (T Taylor) J 8-11	P Burke
6 (1) DOMINO TRICK (J Gibson) J 8-11	J Connell
7 (1) KATIE VALENTINE (R Martin) B 8-11	J Connell
8 (1) LADY DICKATOR (R Martin) B 8-11	J Connell
9 (1) PRETTY MARCH (R Martin) B 8-11	N Clements
10 (1) VICTORIA GLORY (R Martin) B 8-11	A Dicks

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3.30 SLIP ANCHOR STAKES (3-Y-O colts: £3,080: 1m 50yd) (8 runners)	
1 (1) LORD OF TISMORE 10 (J P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	M Hills
2 (7) MY ADMIRAL 288 (W G) (W) (W) C Wail 9-3	N Day
3 (1) ELMDON PRINCE 188 (B W) (W) (W) M Hill 9-3	A Clark
4 (1) LANTIRANT 228 (Sheldrake) (W) (W) (W) D Chapman 9-3	W R Stables
5 (1) NICE AND SHARP 148 (J B) (W) (W) R Hollands 9-3	S Potts
6 (1) NOBLE FELLOW 188 (W G) (W) (W) M Hill 9-3	R Raymond
7 (1) NORTHERN HAL 188 (W G) (W) (W) M Hill 9-3	W Gannon
8 (1) TARTAN'S BOW 188 (R C) (W) (W) M Hill 9-3	C Dwyer

BETTING: 4-5 Lord Of Tismore, 4-5 Northern Hal, 5-1 Noble Fellow, 5-1 Lantirant, 10-1 Nice And Sharp, 12-1 Elmdon Prince, 14-1 others.

1888: MICHLOZZO 9-10 Paul Eddery (13-2) H Cecil 5 ran

FORM FOCUS LORD OF TISMORE won well by 11 lengths at Doncaster (1m) on April 1. TARTAN'S BOW finished off the first 11 of 29 in Sun Ship Handicap at Newmarket (1m).

4.0 FOLKESTEAD CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,742: 6f) (15 runners)

1 (12)	INTO THE FUTURE 8 (J P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	Dale Gibson
2 (1)	MELBURY 11 (J P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	J Hill
3 (1)	ELMDON PRINCE 188 (B W) (W) (W) M Hill 9-3	S Wood
4 (1)	MAGIC FLAME 8 (J P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	G Phipps
5 (1)	900-REPCREUIL 141 (T Smith) P Burgoyne 5-10	J Carter
6 (1)	MANSFIELD LADIES (A) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	J Hill
7 (14)	3482 PIPPIN 150 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	N Adams
8 (10)	8300-45 SHARP ADAMS (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	A Munro
9 (1)	900-REPCREUIL 141 (T Smith) P Burgoyne 5-10	J Carter
10 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
11 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
12 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
13 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
14 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
15 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
16 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
17 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
18 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
19 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
20 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
21 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
22 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
23 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
24 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
25 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
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27 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
28 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
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55 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood
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100 (1)	32322-23 LANCY GIRL 148 (P) (P) (P) M W Easterly 8-11	K Brownwood

Single goal successes enable last season's two rivals for the Football League championship to remain in the forefront

Art of brinkmanship gives Liverpool an edge in title pursuit

By Ian Ross

Liverpool..... 3
Southampton..... 2

IF SUCCESS in modern football is achieved by those teams which, at times, place a heavy and successful reliance on sheer good fortune, it does seem highly probable that Liverpool will win the League Championship this season.

Like Aston Villa and Arsenal, their closest rivals, Liverpool have been guilty of producing many performances of dubious quality over the past seven months. But on Saturday it was only the late emergence of their uncanny, if familiar, knack of salvaging a lost cause which saved them from embarrassment against a technically superior, if less committed, Southampton side.

Twenty-four hours before this game, at a time when he is normally at his most reserved, Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, had been at pains to impress upon his players the importance of total commitment in all the club's remaining fixtures.

In the past, Liverpool's form has suffered at the end of a week when the club's natural rhythm had been disrupted by the international commitments of its leading personnel, and it was as if Dalglish was

once again anticipating an adverse reaction.

His fears were amply borne out in an opening hour when Liverpool played with indifference and a more worryingly apparent indifference. A normally productive midfield was largely impotent, and with the likes of Whelan and McMahon prone to the most naive mistakes, a rare home defeat seemed likely.

A goal was the last thing which Liverpool's desolate play warranted, but, astonishingly, they claimed one in the 15th minute when Houghton's free kick was expertly headed in by Barnes.

Southampton's neat and orderly play was finally rewarded in the 37th minute when Rideout rose unattended to head powerfully home a Case free kick which had been flicked on by Moore.

The goal served to underline the complete lack of understanding within a Liverpool defence which played with such a casual disregard for its own safety that total capitulation would have been inevitable but for the presence of Hanson, the veteran Scottish international who was immaculate at a time when his colleagues seemed intent on damaging their reputations.

Commanding though Han-

son was, he was powerless to prevent the visitors taking a deserved lead three minutes after half-time when Case fired home a stunning drive after Venison had carelessly allowed Wallace to steal possession.

An unlikely Liverpool revival had its roots in the introduction of Rosenhals as a substitute in the 70th minute. The Israeli international forward, who is on loan from Standard Liege of Belgium until the end of the season, won a corner two minutes after his arrival and Houghton's kick was turned into his own goal by Osman.

A victory which Liverpool scarcely deserved was sealed in the 83rd minute when Hyson intelligently headed into the path of Rush who swept home with immense power from 18 yards.

There was still time left for Wallace to miss a simple opportunity to level the scores and for Cherednik to claim a place in history by becoming the first player from the Soviet Union to appear in the first division when he was introduced as a substitute in the 86th minute.

LIVERPOOL: G. Gribben, G. Hyson, B. Venison (sub: G. Gribben), S. Sturton, R. Whelan, J. McMahon, E. Rideout, J. Houghton, J. Barnes, S. McMahon (sub: R. Rosenhals).

SOUTHAMPTON: T. Flower, J. Dodd, A. Cook (sub: A. Cherednik), M. Adams, K. Moore, R. Owen.

Referee: J. Worrall.

Goalkeepers: J. Worrall.

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Air craft: Cottee, the Everton forward, takes flight as Winterburn, left, and Bould, of Arsenal, prepare to pursue during Saturday's game

Arsenal gain some consolation

By Vince Wright

Arsenal..... 1
Everton..... 0

ARSENAL'S return to form — three wins and a draw in their last five games — has probably come too late for them to retain their League title but the two main contenders, Liverpool and Aston Villa, will not relish their forthcoming visits to Highbury, where the hosts have dropped only seven points all season.

Although the big prize looks to have escaped Arsenal this time, there seems little dispute that they are the best of the rest. They were certainly too good to lose, even though this was only what may best be described as a third-place match. The contest was not as close as the score suggests and it was difficult to take Everton's European ambition seriously.

A balmy March afternoon had a soporific effect on players and spectators alike. Smith woke everyone up with an impudent

goal after 21 minutes, his first since New Year's Day. Smith's expert lay-off released Groves on a 50-yard dash down the right and when he collected the return pass his lob beat the poorly positioned Southall and went in off the underside of the crossbar and the goalkeeper's back.

Instead of being encouraged by their recent good results Arsenal seemed inhibited by the pressure of the title race. The exceptions were McCall, who was a hive of industry in midfield, and Snodin and Pointon, the fullbacks, who did not allow Groves and Hayes, the Arsenal wingers, the freedom they enjoyed at Derby the previous week.

Arsenal's championship challenge has been undermined by injuries to key players. Royle, Davis, Merson and Marwood were among those missing on Saturday but in

camp, Arsenal may have found the answer to their goal-scoring drought. The 20-year-old, although tiring towards the end, has made a big impact in a short period.

Dixon, Winterburn and Adams, who were in the England B side last Tuesday, put that disappointment behind them by giving sound performances while Latic, the goalkeeper whom Arsenal's manager, George Graham, does not want, will never have an easier afternoon.

ARSENAL: J. Latic, L. Dixon, N. Winterburn, M. Thomas, S. Bould, A. Smith, K. Campbell (sub: K. Arnold), P. Groves.

EVERTON: N. Southall, I. Snodin, N. Pointon, D. Watson, M. Keown (sub: M. McDonald), N. Whitehead, P. Nevin, S. McCall, G. Sharp, A. Cottee, K. Sheedy (sub: P. Beer).
Referee: R. Gillard.

Charlton clinging to lifeline

By Clive White

Charlton Athletic..... 1
Queen's Park Rangers..... 0

CHARLTON Athletic are a funny old lot. While other teams cower at the very thought of relegation, Charlton grow in confidence. If one did not know better, one would suggest that they actually enjoy these end-of-season high-wire acts.

This time they could hardly have made their escape more difficult. In February they were nine points adrift of the field. Even Houdini would have conceded defeat. But Charlton have battled on doggedly, overtaking Millwall to reach a stage from where they might yet claw their way over Manchester City and Luton Town to safety.

As Lenny Lawrence, their manager, said: "We have the advantage of having been here before. There is something about us that keeps going. They ain't no Houdinis or magic formulas, just a refusal to give up the stick."

If the timing of Saturday's 86th minute own goal at Selhurst Park is anything to go by, we are in store for another desperately close finish. The fact that it was an own goal was both cheering and disheartening for Charlton. They need all the luck they could get just as much as they need a reliable goalkeeper.

At least, Charlton are making their own luck and a few goal-scoring chances. Perhaps the greatest complement one could say Charlton was that their goalkeepers have given up the opportunity to do the same again.

When Sansom almost succeeded in chipping another back pass over Seaman's head as he began to wonder about Rangers' masochistic tendency. But even before Maddix's self-inflicted wound, Williams should have hurt them when put clean through by the usually perceptive and skilful Minto.

Not that Maddix could be blamed unduly for slicing Mortimer's low, swerving cross past his own goalkeeper. Don Howe, the Rangers' manager, preferred to give the credit to Mortimer, who seemed finally to have found his niche in central midfield. "I can't see any reason why Charlton should not survive," Howe said. "I don't know what their programme is. Who do they play next?"

"Liverpool" came the reply. Howe's "yes" was just as much a promise to fight the biggest crowd at Mounview Park since the glory days of Wilbur Cush a few decades ago (George C. writes).

Portsmouth, vying for their first Irish League championship, have a four points lead over Glenavon, the last team to take the title out of Belfast 16 years ago. Linfield, the champions, and Ballymena United are four points further adrift.

Glenavon did not help their cause at the weekend by dropping two points away to Bangor in a goalless draw while Portsmouth were defeating Carrick Rangers 2-0.

Ballymena also dropped two points in a 1-1 draw away to Distillery. But Linfield kept their hopes alive of a place in Europe with a 4-1 win over Newry Town.

Linfield, who meet Argentina at Windsor Park tomorrow, night, hope to include Mortimer, striker David McCall, Stephen Beattie, a full back with Chelsea, replaces Mark Todd (Barnsley) not available in the Ireland under-23 team that meets Israel at Coleraine tomorrow night.

Millwall ready for drop

By Dennis Signy

Millwall..... 1
Crystal Palace..... 2

THE remarkable decline and fall of Millwall, who briefly topped the first division last September, continues apace, with a depressing sequence of only one victory in 25 league games leaving them marooned at the foot of the table.

"I think that is it," Bob Pearson, the Millwall manager, admitted. Since he succeeded John Docherty in February the Lions have lost six times and drawn one game. Since Millwall went public last October losing has become a habit.

"The players are wondering if they will ever win again," Pearson said. "It is my job to keep them confident," he said, but he was adding, disingenuously, "I don't seem to have been doing it too well."

Docherty and his assistant, Frank McLintock, who was at the Den as an assistant coach, mentored, led Millwall to the first division for the first time in their 103-year history two years ago, as Tony Casarino and Teddy Sherrington captured the headlines with their goal-scoring feats.

Casarino has recently been sold to Aston Villa for £1.5 million and Sherrington relegated to a substitute's role, as Pearson has tried to introduce a new winning formula. Sherrington was greeted with acclaim by Millwall's long-suffering supporters when he replaced Paul Goddard, who has scored only two goals since his record signing for £800,000 from Derby County at the turn of the year.

Despite the fact that a header from Steven came back off a post and that Allen, Millwall's £400,000 acquisition from Norwich City, also hit the woodwork, Pearson was not claiming bad luck. Palace, who virtually assured their place in the first division for next season with this victory, had two goals disallowed, created several chances and were always in a higher gear. They play at Norwich this week before facing Liverpool in next Sunday's FA Cup semi-final in a relaxed, if not confident, mood.

Bright headed them in front following a free kick by Barber after 41 minutes, while Gray, unmarked, scored their second with another header after 57 minutes to climax a good move. Although Allen replied for Millwall with a minute, a reflex header when a shot from Dawes was blocked, that did no more than quell the mutterings from the home supporters.

MILLWALL: K. Brannigan, K. Stevens, I. Smith, D. Thompson, A. McLeary (sub: W. Reed), L. Taylor, J. Houghton, M. Hines (sub: E. Sherrington), P. Sherrington.

CRYSTAL PALACE: N. Morgan, J. Pemberton, R. Shaw, A. Gray, G. O'Neil, R. Vachon, P. Barber, G. Thompson, A. Pardew. Referee: A. Moulton.

De Agostini's effort brings relief for Italy

BASLE (Reuters) — Luigi De Agostini ended a four-month goal drought for Italy on Saturday when he scored the goal that gave the World Cup hosts a 1-0 win over Switzerland.

The young Swiss side had the better of the first half in which the Juventus forward, Salvatore Schillaci, was well contained. Two chances later in his first international but it was when the Sicilian was brought down after beating three defenders that De Agostini scored from the 68th minute free kick.

SWITZERLAND: M. Brunner, H. Baumann, U. Fischer, O. Hilt, M. Hoegger, M. Keller, A. Schuster, A. Rous, S. Chelazzi.

ITALY: V. Zampar, P. Mascini (sub: L. De Agostini), G. Favali, G. Bergami, G. Ferrar, F. Di Napoli, G. Marchetti, P. Veronesi, R. Donadoni, A. Carnevale (sub: A. Sarnesi), S. Schicchi.

Harford kills off Chelsea's hopes

By Nicholas Harling

Chelsea..... 1
Derby County..... 1

THE popular image of Mick Harford scoring through the air of Millwall, who briefly topped the first division last September, continues apace, with a depressing sequence of only one victory in 25 league games leaving them marooned at the foot of the table.

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Robson to continue comeback

By Chris Moore

Nottingham Forest..... 0
Wimbledon..... 1

WIMBLEDON will breeze into the Anfield cauldron tomorrow night, having won the last of their minds that they can delay, if not even derail, the title-bound Liverpool express.

Hard as it may be for the game's purists to accept, the fact remains that the capital city's poor relations appear as well equipped as any side for the task of taking the wounds of this fourth defeat in five games. Their only win in seven outings was the one clouded in controversy over the legality of Crosby's winner against Manchester City.

So Saturday's success over the Littlewoods Cup finalists was, on a number of counts, every bit as impressive as the 3-0 hitting they handed Aston Villa, then the leaders, early in the month, to give them win No. 6 in their travels.

They have now lost only one of their last 12 league games, and are apparently actually leading the prospect in score tomorrow. We don't have any fears whatsoever about going to Liverpool," Bobby Gould, the Wimbledon manager, said.

BRYAN Robson, the England and Manchester United captain, came through his second comeback game on Saturday with no problems. United coasted through against Rochdale, winning the full 90 minutes.

Robson's next target is a Central League game at Huddersfield tomorrow night after which the United manager, Alex Ferguson, will consider whether he is fit enough to be included in the squad for the FA Cup semi-final against Oldham Athletic next Sunday.

At Manchester City, Robson's return to the team has been a relief. He has been out of the team for a long time, but he is now back and he is helping the team.

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- ROWING: OXFORD'S BOAT RACE 36
- RACING: CALL COLLECT'S DOUBT 37
- FOOTBALL: WEEKEND REPORTS 38, 39
- GOLF: OGLE WINS IN FRANCE 40

SPORT

Villa get what they deserve

By Dennis Shaw

Aston Villa 1
Manchester City 2

Manchester City's televised victory at Villa Park yesterday has offered the viewing football public significant information about affairs at both ends of the first division.

Villa, who scorned the chance to establish a three-point lead over Liverpool at the top, are demonstrably not championship material. In the long term, and perhaps most importantly, Howard Kendall's City are taking on board many of the attributes of his two Everton championship winning teams of the 1980s.

As such they do not deserve to go down and, armed with three richly deserved points to help them out of the bottom three, they probably will not. A severely disappointed Graham Taylor, the Villa manager, acknowledged that his team's championship challenge is fading. "It certainly makes it more difficult now than ever," he confessed.

"Assuming that we pick up regular points from now on, Liverpool have two games in hand so we would need them to have a collapse."

"We got what we deserved today, absolutely nothing. At 1-1, we should have been expecting to get something from it, but our players chased the game like schoolboys with the obvious outcome."

City's success, their first away win of the season, was settled appropriately by Reid, 10 minutes from the end of a game both he and his side largely controlled.

Around Maine Road, there has been discontent at Kendall's signing of his former Goodison Park brigade, but the logic of it all has now emerged. "I am glad this club's four-year spell without an away win in the first division is over and that the performance was seen on television," Kendall said. "It proved what I have been

First division

Top	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	30	17	8	5	58	30	38
Aston Villa	30	16	9	5	50	30	35
Manchester City	30	16	8	6	49	30	34
Sheff Wed	30	14	8	8	43	31	30
Sheff Utd	30	12	12	6	43	31	26

Bottom	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	30	10	8	14	40	48	28
Man City	30	7	12	13	39	49	25
Charlton	30	7	10	13	27	52	23
Millwall	30	5	10	15	37	52	20

saying for weeks — we are a very good side.

"It's nice to be off the bottom, especially with a game in hand. Villa's goal was against the run of play. We dominated the first half."

Reid's work in snuffing out Villa's effectiveness in midfield, and inspiring the ball to be passed around with accuracy and composure, lifted his team's game outside of the guidelines of relegation battling.

They, not Villa, played with composure and style, keeping possession and making their loftier opponents chase the game virtually from the start.

This was despite the fact that Villa were given the impetus of a tenth minute lead by Cowans. That goal, at least, had championship quality about it.

Working in a see-saw movement with Casarino, the £1.5 million signing from Millwall, Platt held the ball up patiently to the left of a crowded City penalty area. England's new cap, who made his full international debut against Brazil at Wembley, then placed the ball to perfection for Cowans's blast.

It was his first goal for Villa since he last featured at home in ITV's The Match, against Everton last November. On that occasion, it led to a spectacular 6-2 victory, but history was never going to repeat itself.

Everton crumbled, Manchester City did not. They delved into reserves of calibre and fashioned their fine victory.



High hurdler: Gray, of Aston Villa, rides the challenge of Hendry, of Manchester City, at Villa Park yesterday

The equaliser came in a mere 16 minutes, helped by an expensive Villa lapse.

They were moving out of defence, concentrating on going forward, when the ponderous Ormondroyd lost possession unexpectedly to the tigerish Reid.

In a twinkling of an eye, the ball had moved across the face of Villa's defence for Ward to run at them and bury a left-

footed drive just inside the post for his first goal since his move from West Ham United.

Villa have simply jettisoned all semblance of the racy form that took them into title contention, having now dropped 14 of the last 21 available points. Their final misdemeanour was to leave themselves open for Manchester City's well de-

served winner.

Former Aston Villa player Heath, on as substitute, fed White, and his shot spun off the foot of the near post across goal for the inspirational Reid to finish it off.

To compound Villa's misery, their England B winger, Daley, left the ground on crutches with his left foot heavily bandaged. Daley had finished the game and did not appear

to have any problem during the 90 minutes, and he explained as he made his way home: "I got a bang on the ankle early on and I've just had it strapped up as a precaution."

ASTON VILLA: N. Spinks (1), Ormondroyd (2), Hendry (3), Gray (4), Ward (5), Reid (6), Platt (7), Cowans (8), Taylor (9), Taylor (10), Taylor (11), Taylor (12), Taylor (13), Taylor (14), Taylor (15), Taylor (16), Taylor (17), Taylor (18), Taylor (19), Taylor (20), Taylor (21), Taylor (22), Taylor (23), Taylor (24), Taylor (25), Taylor (26), Taylor (27), Taylor (28), Taylor (29), Taylor (30), Taylor (31), Taylor (32), Taylor (33), Taylor (34), Taylor (35), Taylor (36), Taylor (37), Taylor (38), Taylor (39), Taylor (40), Taylor (41), Taylor (42), Taylor (43), Taylor (44), Taylor (45), Taylor (46), Taylor (47), Taylor (48), Taylor (49), Taylor (50), Taylor (51), Taylor (52), Taylor (53), Taylor (54), Taylor (55), Taylor (56), Taylor (57), Taylor (58), Taylor (59), Taylor (60), Taylor (61), Taylor (62), Taylor (63), Taylor (64), Taylor (65), Taylor (66), Taylor (67), Taylor (68), Taylor (69), Taylor (70), Taylor (71), Taylor (72), Taylor (73), Taylor (74), Taylor (75), Taylor (76), Taylor (77), Taylor 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